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11 MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
COOPERATIVE CONSERVATION LISTENING SESSION

12 Runge Nature Center
2901 West Truman Boulevard
13 Jefferson City, MO 65102
August 29, 2006

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1 A P P E A R A N C E S

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1 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

2 MR. WITTER: Good afternoon. My name is Dan Witter.
3 I'm the moderator today. I happen to live in Holts Summit,
4 Missouri and traveled just a short distance to be here, unlike
5 our honored guests on the stage who have traveled a long
6 distance to listen.

7 More formal introductions of our guests will follow
8 in a moment, but with us today are United States Department of
9 Agriculture, Deputy Under Secretary, Natural Resources and
10 Environment, Dave Tenny. And Environmental Protection Agency,
11 Assistant Administrator for the Office of Prevention,
12 Pesticides and Toxic Substances, Jim Gulliford.

13 Helping document today's event with their special
14 skills, our court reporter, Ashley High, and sign
15 interpreters, Kathleen Alexander and Heidi Spencer.

16 Now, if you would, please stand for the presentation
17 of the colors by the Central Region Color Guard of Missouri
18 Department of Corrections under the supervision of Charles
19 Verdugo followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

20 It's with genuine honor that I now introduce the
21 Director of the Missouri Department of Conservation, John
22 Hoskins, with words of welcome for us.

23 MR. HOSKINS: Thank you, Dan. And good afternoon,
24 everyone. It certainly is my pleasure to be with you today
25 and to welcome you to the State Capitol of Jefferson City,

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1 Missouri and to the Missouri Department of Conservation's
2 Runge Nature Center.

3 The concept of cooperative conservation and
4 environmental partnerships are a part of our culture here in
5 the Show-Me State. So it is fitting that today's listening
6 session is coordinated by our State's Department of
7 Conservation, Missouri Natural Resources Conservation Service
8 Office and the Regional Office of the Fish and Wildlife
9 Service.

10 The groundbreaking partnerships that are created
11 among our organizations provide daily examples of how
12 conservation efforts on public and private land will succeed
13 if we work as a team.

14 Throughout this building you will see further
15 examples of the Department of Conservation's partnership with
16 Missouri citizens. Our agency was created by the voters in
17 the 1930s and it is supported by a voter approved 1/8 percent
18 of 1 percent sales tax.

19 For decades Missourians have put the resources in
20 place to support the quality of life that clean water, healthy
21 forests and sustainable wildlife bring.

22 Our Runge Nature Center is one of six locations
23 across the State where parents and teachers, children,
24 enthusiasts can all interactively learn about the plants and
25 the animals of Missouri and about the threats to their health.

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1 It is also a venue for community leaders and
2 landowners, not-for-profit organizations to share their ideas
3 about land management practices that protect our resources for
4 the next generation of conservationists. Of course, all of

5 these efforts depend heavily upon a positive and cooperative
6 relationship with the Federal Government.

7 For this reason it was rewarding to attend a
8 President's National Cooperative Conservation Conference last
9 year in St. Louis. This kicked off the national dialogue that
10 continues today.

11 The Department of Conservation is committed to
12 building upon that effort, to creating more partnerships,
13 partnerships that will leverage the work of organizations and
14 to -- in conducting all these activities in an accountable and
15 a transparent manner.

16 As I consider the opportunities before us I am
17 reminded of a quote from Margaret Mead, which describes
18 Missouri's experience and it sets an important talent for our
19 task. She said: "Never doubt that a small group of
20 thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed,
21 it is the only thing that ever has."

22 So without further ado, welcome to our facility. I
23 look forward to a very productive afternoon.

24 MR. WITTER: Thank you, Director Hoskins.

25 MR. HOSKINS: Yeah. No problem.

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1 MR. WITTER: A quick review of our agenda today and
2 the process we're going to follow. Our guests will be
3 formally introduced in a moment and will make opening
4 comments.

5 We'll have a brief presentation on an exemplary case
6 study, cooperative conservation, and then we'll move right
7 into the reason we're gathered here, which is to listen to
8 your comments on cooperative conservation.

9 The process we're going to follow is designed to
10 hear from as many people as want to be heard, while giving
11 everyone a fair chance at the microphone.

12 As you came this afternoon you should have received
13 an index card with some contact information and five questions
14 that are the particular focus of these listening sessions.

15 When we get to the public comment session, you'll be
16 called to the microphone in order of the number that's on your
17 card. Actually, called to the microphones in small groups of
18 five folks or so, simply move to the microphone closest to
19 you, so the audience and recorder can hear you.

20 When it's your turn, please give your name, spell
21 it, if appropriate, city and state of residence and
22 organization if you're representing one. Court reporter,
23 Ashley, will capture all your comments.

24 If you're not comfortable with speaking today, and
25 performance jitters are absolutely understandable, you're very

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1 welcome to make comments by sending them by letter or fax to
2 the address or phone number on your card or go to the website
3 listed on the card and provide input or leave comments in the
4 box at the back of the room today. All methods of comment are
5 weighted equally, so however you choose to participate you'll
6 be heard.

7 Please may I ask that you limit your verbal comments
8 today to about two minutes and thirty seconds. This is done
9 so that everyone has a chance to participate. At two minutes

10 I'll show you a yellow card and you'll have an additional
11 thirty seconds to wrap up and at that point I'll thank you for
12 your input and we'll give someone else an opportunity for
13 their turn.

14 Remember, you're very welcome to provide written
15 elaboration on your thoughts of any length by letter, fax, web
16 or drop materials you'd like to submit in the box at the back
17 of the room.

18 My responsibility as moderator is threefold. First,
19 to keep everything moving along, so I apologize in advance if
20 I have to ask you to abbreviate your verbal input.

21 Second, to deeply thank you for your presence here
22 today and insure that the process is systematic, substantive
23 and most certainly it should go unnecessary to even mention,
24 but civil.

25 And third, I might ask please for now turn off your
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1 cell phones and pagers. You know, even when set to vibrate
2 the signals on these electronic devices can interfere with
3 microphones.

4 Also, to be sure that everyone is heard in the
5 listening session we'll not be able to answer questions from
6 the podium or get into an exchange.

7 Additionally now, I would like to acknowledge a few
8 people who have joined us here today to listen to your
9 comments and who would be available at the break or following
10 the meeting to answer questions you might have.

11 Among them, Charlie Wooley, Deputy Regional
12 Director, Midwest Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Mr.
13 Wooley, would you --

14 MR. WOOLEY: (Standing.)

15 MR. WITTER: Thank you, sir. In the back -- thank
16 you. Charlie Scott, Field Supervisor, Fish and Wildlife
17 Service, Columbia, Missouri. Mr. Scott?

18 MR. SCOTT: (Standing.)

19 MR. WITTER: Thank you, sir. Roger Hanson, State
20 Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

21 MR. HANSON: (Standing.)

22 MR. WITTER: Thank you, sir. Tim Kelley, Farm
23 Service Agency, State Executive Director.

24 MR. KELLEY: (Standing.)

25 MR. WITTER: Thank you, sir. And Karen Flournoy,
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1 Associate Regional Administrator, Region 7, Environmental
2 Protection Agency.

3 MS. FLOURNOY: (Standing.)

4 MR. WITTER: Thank you, ma'am. These folks will be
5 available at the break or at the end of the meeting to answer
6 questions.

7 And now, to our honored guests and their opening
8 comments. David Tenny was named Deputy Under Secretary for
9 Natural Resources and Environment for the U.S. Department of
10 Agriculture in October 2001.

11 He had been acting in that position since January
12 22nd of 2001. As Deputy Under Secretary he is responsible for
13 policy relating to the programs of the U.S. Department of
14 Agriculture's farm service.

15 A native of Boise, Idaho, Mr. Tenny earned a
16 Bachelor's in American Studies from Brigham Young University
17 in Utah and a law degree from George Washington University in
18 Washington, D.C. Please join me in welcoming to the podium
19 Dave Tenny.

20 MR. TENNY: Thank you, Dan, for being such a
21 gracious moderator for us today. I think we all -- however, I
22 would note that I do have performance jitters, so if you would
23 like to read my opening remarks they're in the box in the back
24 of the room.

25 I was preparing last night for this trip and I was
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1 packing and my wife asked me where I was going and I said: I
2 was going to Missouri, and she asked me who in the world in
3 Missouri would want to listen to you, and I said: Well
4 frankly, nobody, that's why it's a listening session and I'm
5 here to listen. And that's good news for you, but I am
6 obliged, in fact, and I am eager to offer a few opening
7 remarks.

8 I am -- in my extracurricular activities outside of
9 the Department of Agriculture I'm an Assistant Scout Master.
10 We've got a lot of young men who are very eager and at the age
11 of life that they are in -- and they're rambunctious as you
12 might expect Scouts to be, and that's always an interesting
13 challenge as a Scout Master.

14 Now, I am a merit badge counselor for the forestry
15 merit badge and I better be and I better make sure that every
16 one these Scouts earns the forestry merit badge. Otherwise, I
17 would probably have serious questions at the office about why
18 I'm not fulfilling that part of my responsibility in the
19 Scouting Program.

20 And as I've worked with many young men on this merit
21 badge, I have required them to learn the story of the American
22 chestnut Tree. Probably many of you already know the story,
23 but just in case you don't I'm going to tell it to you in an
24 abbreviated form.

25 Around the turn of the 20th Century American
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1 chestnut was one of the predominant tree species in the
2 eastern United States. It was a very beautiful tree and it
3 was literally the backbone of the tree that built the United
4 States in its former years.

5 A fabulous tree, grew to great heights, inspired
6 people, inspired poets. Something happened at the turn of the
7 century, a blight was introduced by exotic species of a
8 chestnut tree and the American chestnut as we know it
9 disappeared from the United States.

10 Literally hundreds of millions of trees come to the
11 effects of this blight. Now American chestnuts generally are
12 not able to reach the age of maturity that would bring them to
13 the stature they were once appreciated when they were
14 delivering across the eastern United States.

15 Well, a number of decades ago a group of very
16 visionary people gathered and formed the American Chestnut
17 Foundation and they have one real purpose in mind and that was
18 to restore the American chestnut and to develop a strain of
19 chestnut that would be resistant and it took them literally

20 decades to do that. They partnered with, among others, the
21 U.S. Foresters to do this.

22 A couple of years ago, the President and the First
23 Lady planted on the grounds of the White House a blight
24 existent American chestnut tree, that really was a
25 consummation of the decades of work these good people had put

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1 into this vision.

2 Now, because of their hard work we have nurseries
3 that are growing American chestnuts and those trees are being
4 planted as quickly as they can, as carefully as they can in
5 many locations around the United States in the eastern part of
6 the country.

7 Now, that story to me is a symbol. I have an
8 American -- blighted American chestnut tree seed on my desk at
9 work and it reminds me of the power of cooperation. It
10 reminds me of the power of common vision and purpose.

11 It's not lost on me that the success that we will
12 enjoy as we see the American chestnut return to the forests of
13 the United States was not the product of a government program.
14 In fact, the great vision, the great work -- hard work that
15 was done by a group of people who simply care.

16 A group of people who were serving something that
17 was much larger than themselves, that seed speaks volumes when
18 we talk about cooperative conservation.

19 The President of the United States a couple of years
20 ago issued an Executive Order calling upon agencies of
21 government to tap the tremendous resources that we have in our
22 country.

23 People who are eager to join a community of purpose
24 to serve something that is greater themselves in the name of
25 conservation.

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1 It might not surprise you to know that the Federal
2 Government is not the bend's ultimate reservoir of good ideas
3 in this area. In fact, as we travel around the country the
4 best ideas and the ideas that we learn from people who simply
5 come together to do something good about conservation, that's
6 why we're here to listen to you.

7 We want to hear your ideas. We want know what's not
8 working. We want to take your ideas and try to do better,
9 because we believe we can.

10 We also know that you're not simply going to be able
11 to take information back to Washington in a black box and
12 magically produce a result that's going to resolve all the
13 conflicts, all the concerns, that's going to require us take
14 the information that we get from you and with you work towards
15 a solution that will benefit, not only our natural resources,
16 but the people who live in and enjoy them and use them to
17 benefit their lives.

18 So thank you for being here. I look forward to
19 hearing what you have to say. I'm looking forward to not
20 saying a thing because I want to hear what you have to say and
21 I want to go back home and I'm sure my wife will be amazed to
22 hear that I actually sat for a few hours and didn't say
23 anything.

24 So thank you for being here. We look very forward

25 to what you have to say and we welcome your comments and with
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1 that I will turn the mike back over to our moderator. Thank
2 you very much.

3 MR. WITTER: Thank you, Mr. Tenny. James Gulliford
4 is the Assistant Administrator for the Office of Prevention,
5 Pesticides and Toxic Substances for the Environmental
6 Protection Agency and is responsible for managing the nation's
7 regulatory and scientific programs on pesticides and
8 industrial chemicals, as well as overseeing many collaborative
9 pollution prevention programs.

10 The office has an annual budget of \$260 million and
11 more than fourteen hundred employees. Prior to being
12 confirmed for his present position by the Senate in July 2006,
13 Mr. Gulliford served as the Region 7 Administrator for EPA
14 beginning September 2001. In that position he was responsible
15 for the interface between the EPA Headquarters in Washington
16 and the citizens of Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska and Missouri.

17 And prior to that Mr. Gulliford had twenty-five
18 years of professional experience administrating environmental
19 programs in agriculture and mining.

20 He received a Bachelor's Degree in Forestry
21 Management and a Master's Degree in Forestry Economics and
22 Marketing from Iowa State University.

23 He worked at Iowa State University and Southern
24 Illinois University in mine reclamation and environmental
25 protection until 1982 when he became Director of Iowa's

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1 Department of Soil Conservation.

2 Mr. Gulliford was named the Director of the Division
3 of Soil Conservation when the Department of Soil Conservation
4 merged with the Department of Agriculture and Land
5 Stewardship. Please join me in welcoming to the podium
6 Mr. Jim Gulliford.

7 MR. GULLIFORD: Thank you, Dan. And good afternoon.
8 I really do appreciate the fact that many of you have chosen
9 to take a bit of your time and share it with us today, because
10 we all know that your investment today has to pay off for you
11 personally to be an appropriate use of your time and we hope
12 that you understand how much we want to listen to your ideas
13 today and to hear your thoughts regarding cooperative
14 conservation.

15 As Dan indicated in my introduction, yes, I am the
16 Assistant Administrator for Prevention, Pesticides, Toxic
17 Substances. Two of those programs are very significant
18 regulatory programs looking at America's chemistry and
19 pesticides and it is very important to our economic wellbeing,
20 but also a very important program is our pollution prevention
21 program.

22 And that is a program where we invest significantly
23 programs that bring people together to solve the problems
24 associated with the environment, consistent with the mission
25 of EPA and many of those are done in the collaborative and

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1 very partnering approach and it's a problem solving.

2 I'm pleased to join you today and I want to thank,
3 again, John, for your hosting here at this wonderful Runge

4 facility.

5 This is a great Department of Conservation facility
6 here in the State of Missouri and still as a homeowner and a
7 taxpayer in the State of Missouri I share in the pride, I
8 think, in facilities like this here in the State of Missouri.

9 Let me say a couple of words about my interests and
10 why I'm here today, as well. In 2004 President Bush directed
11 the EPA and all of our federal agencies and department to
12 empower local citizens in the tools to solve the local
13 environmental challenges that they face, that's companies,
14 communities, individuals, and partners of all agencies, at all
15 levels of government have really come to realize that we all
16 have a shared role and responsibility in protecting the
17 environment. In fact, environmental protection is everybody's
18 responsibility.

19 In collaboration this is one of the tools in the EPA
20 toolbox and our core principles to meet the President's
21 challenge to us. A call to accelerate the pace of
22 environmental inspections in this country while maintaining
23 our nation's economic competitiveness.

24 And appropriate to why we're here is that in
25 Missouri and in the Midwest these are the very core practices
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1 that we see happen every day. Again, that's our interest in
2 hearing your stories. We're going to hear a story, a good
3 example of how this type of partnership effort pays dividends
4 and stays like Missouri when we hear about the Smithville Lake
5 Project in just a few minutes.

6 We also look forward to hearing about many other
7 activities that you folks have been a part of, want to be part
8 of and ways that you found to partner collaboratively, again,
9 to solve a good challenge that we face.

10 Your ideas are what we're here to hear and we're
11 very anxious to get on with that. So, again, I want to thank
12 you all for coming and investing a little of your time in
13 bringing us this information and I look forward to listening
14 to your ideas. Thank you.

15 MR. WITTER: At the White House Conference in
16 Cooperative Conservation in August 2005 exemplary case studies
17 in cooperative conservation were presented.

18 We're fortunate to have with us today Mr. Steve
19 Taylor, CEO of Environmental Resources Coalition, who will
20 encapsulate one such case study on the Smithville Lake
21 Project. Mr. Taylor, please come to the podium. Thank you,
22 sir.

23 MR. SMITH: Thank you very much. I'd say it's hard
24 for a slow talking country boy like me to say anything in five
25 minutes, so I'll give it my best shot.

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1 We were asked to come to the St. Louis conference
2 last year to talk about the Smithville Project and at that
3 time I had a DVD that I presented and I don't have that DVD
4 today, so I'll talk it off-the-cuff here a little bit, so bear
5 with me.

6 In the time that we have here I'm not going to talk
7 about our project or any kind of show and tell and any
8 specifics, but what I wanted to focus on is the cooperation a

9 little bit that we had in that project.

10 We started the Smithville Project -- the issue back
11 then when we started it was a agriculture chemical called
12 atrazine, that's used primarily for growing corn. It's a very
13 effective herbicide.

14 In the mid-1990s there was a lot of problems
15 environmentally with the use of this product. It was being
16 found in drinking water. We had violations of drinking water
17 standards.

18 Later on it was from the clean water side it was
19 listed on the State of Missouri as an impairment for that
20 reservoir along with nine others. So there was some real
21 challenges going on in the mid-1990s from the use of this
22 product.

23 The farmers were in a little bit of a bind, because
24 there was no good substitute economically for this product.
25 It was getting a lot of press and the local Kansas City Star
0019 was -- the issue was showing up on the front page.

2 It was about in the mid-1990s that I started
3 collaborating with a group of partners. They included the
4 Commodity Organization, the Corn Growers started collaborating
5 with our good friend at the University of Missouri
6 Extension -- thank you, Bob Broz -- and started collaborating
7 with the other partners to bring together a partnership.

8 And as I said, that's what I want to focus on here
9 was the partnership, so we did that. We had the commodity
10 group. We had the acres of atrazine, the private company,
11 DNR, the University of Oakley, but also with our federal
12 partners, the EPA and USDA were our primary partners on this
13 project.

14 So we started off with -- the main story I wanted to
15 talk about -- we started off with a landowner meeting. And
16 I'll never forget we had about, oh, fifty landowners in a room
17 in Smithville, Missouri -- this was 1997 or so I believe.

18 And this was right -- coming on right after some
19 pretty bad headlines in the Kansas City Star and the project
20 that we worked on, again, I'm not going to go into detail, but
21 was basically a very data intensive science driven project,
22 where we collected a lot of samples, not only from the lake,
23 but also the streams and from the farmers fields.

24 And we wanted to get to that level because we was
25 going to work with the farmers on different farming practices
0020 that would hopefully keep it profitable for the farmers to
2 farm, but also reduce the amounts of atrazine coming off the
3 fields.

4 We had this landowner meeting and remember I got up
5 and I told them exactly what we're going to do. We're going
6 to work with EPA. We're going to put monitors in the field,
7 collect the data and work with the EPA and DNR on that data.

8 And the air left the room for just a second. All
9 the farmers had a little bit of a gasp and I mentioned this
10 DVD and there's a part in there that I really love, where one
11 of the landlord owners, he actually farms most of the land in
12 this water shed -- it's a little over a 100,000 acre water
13 shed, but in the DVD he said -- Jim, he said -- he said

14 something to the effect -- you mentioned EPA and I shuttered,
15 that we were going to be working so closely with the EPA and
16 the DNR and regulatory agencies on a project like this.

17 And I'll say again, we had some hard times that
18 first year or two getting over this apprehension of working
19 with the federal agencies. And it was along that time -- and
20 you heard Jim's biography -- that he came to be the Regional
21 Administrator of the EPA.

22 And I've known Jim for some time and we were sharing
23 about this challenge and it was not soon after that, Jim, that
24 you managed to come with us and -- to a field day at
25 Smithville, actually walked the fields with the farmers. We

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1 had a barbecue that night at the local fertilizer dealership
2 and that was the key point.

3 It wasn't all the meetings with all the different
4 staff of what we needed to do that was good to develop the
5 quality assurance plans, the sampling plans and all the other
6 plans that we needed to do. What really worked and made the
7 collaboration work was that face-to-face trusting relationship
8 you get with the landowners to make that thing work.

9 They had to see that the EPA in the form of Jim
10 Gulliford didn't have horns on the top of his head and I think
11 they found that out. And that was really a turning point, I
12 think, early on in the project that we were able to bring
13 about a trusting relationship there.

14 Later on in -- and the project ended in August of
15 '04. And I'll kind of close with this. I think I got five
16 minutes before they knock me off the stage here, but in August
17 of '04 we were closing out the project and we were honored to
18 have Mike Leavitt in the region -- the EPA Administrator for
19 the U.S. out of D.C. come in and help celebrate the success of
20 the project.

21 We were successful. The levels of atrazine in the
22 lake over a six, seven-year period fell, got below the MCL
23 levels. We were able to keep the farmers still farming. So
24 we created the win-win scenario we were hoping to create.

25 And the part that I remember when Mr. Leavitt gave a
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1 speech at our Smithville field day was the way he talked about
2 when he'd go to Cabinet meetings with the President -- with
3 President Bush and he said the President would say -- when
4 he'd come to him on the Cabinet meetings he'd say: Are you
5 cleaning the air, the water and keeping the land safe and are
6 you doing it in a manner that keeps us economically
7 competitive.

8 And I think that's another key. When we're going to
9 vote, we have to keep in mind that most people that we're
10 dealing with on conservation issues there's not always going
11 to be that profit factor that we have to keep in consideration
12 as was in this project.

13 The key was for us to work with the farmers. Always
14 keep in mind that they were having to look at their bottom
15 line and keep farming and so everything we did in working with
16 our partnerships and federal agencies and others we had to
17 keep that in mind.

18 So that's my story, Dan, and I appreciate the

19 opportunity here. I know there's a lot of other stories here
20 in Missouri and I appreciate the opportunity to come back.

21 MR. WITTER: Thank you, Mr. Taylor, for a story of
22 cooperative conservation and trust. Thank you. And welcome
23 -- more Missouri welcome to Mr. Tenny and Mr. Gulliford, and
24 now it's your turn.

25 Please will commenters with cards one to five please
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1 make your way to the microphones. By the way, if you've got a
2 card, have a number and have decided not to comment no social
3 desirability with simply staying in your seats. And by the
4 way, there are two microphones set up here for your
5 convenience.

6 We will ask you, sir, for your name just to remind
7 us, spell it if appropriate, city, state, organization if
8 you're representing one. About two minutes, sir, and I'll
9 show a yellow card. It's not a penalty card. It's just to
10 say the two minutes and you'll have about another thirty
11 seconds. And do speak into the microphone, sir. I'm
12 discovering this, just go ahead and put your mouth right on it
13 there and we'll be able to hear you. Thank you very much,
14 sir. Your comment is welcome. No. 1 or who's at the
15 microphone first?

16 MR. DAVIS: I'm No. 1.

17 MR. WITTER: Thank you, sir.

18 MR. DAVIS: It may be my only time. I'm Maurice
19 Davis, Higbee, Missouri. Society -- I'm representing the
20 Society for Range Management. I want to talk about a couple
21 of things, professional societies and professional experience.

22 I became a student member of the Society for Range
23 Management in 1965, and yes, there was colleges back then and
24 have been a continuous member for the last forty years.

25 The Society for Range Management can be a useful
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1 umbrella organization that provides a forum where like-minded
2 individuals from various groups, public and private, can learn
3 and work together to promote an ecological approach to
4 grassland, rangeland, ecosystem management.

5 My professional experience is -- I was employed by
6 the Soil Conservation Service now Natural Resource
7 Conservation Service in 1972 in South Dakota. I came to
8 Missouri as a State Range Conservationist in 1987 and retired
9 in 2003.

10 In my experience -- my professional experience over
11 these last -- over those thirty years with NRCS, a technical
12 agency, and I believe a good one over the long run, I have
13 felt that oftentimes that too much authority is placed with
14 the administrative personnel in developing technical policy.

15 Then the technical event -- the technical employee
16 is given the responsibility often without adequate authority
17 to carry out the programs in which they had too little input.

18 MR. WITTER: Thank you, sir, that was two minutes
19 right on the mark. Congratulations to you. That was a very
20 fine example of the -- the process. Thank you, sir. Again,
21 right to the heart of the matter and well done. Please No. 2.

22 MR. CLUBINE: Hi, I'm Steve Clubine, C-L-U-B-I-N-E,
23 and I'm from Windsor, Missouri. I'm here today representing

24 the Society for Range Management and my professional
25 organization, again, called the North American Grounds

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1 Partnership, that organization is --

2 MR. WITTER: Mr. Clubine, right into the microphone,
3 please, sir.

4 MR. CLUBINE: As well as the North American Grounds
5 Partnership. Society for Range Management has represented my
6 views as a wildlife biologist and concerns for conservation of
7 our country's diverse natural resources, as well as I hope
8 this conservation coalition is interested in those views, as
9 well.

10 As organization's members view comment and programs
11 and policies that affect soil and water and wildlife
12 conservation in equal values, not just one over the other.

13 Our national and USDA programs impact these and help
14 landowners and landowner agencies practice conservation,
15 hopefully, but not always in healthy, sustainable ways.

16 And we embrace programs to further conservation of
17 these habitats, but not those that create problems for future
18 generations or threaten species.

19 We ask that you promote plant communities, grazing
20 systems and management approaches that help all of these
21 species and programs. Thank you.

22 MR. WITTER: Thank you for your comment, sir. Just
23 for a sense of -- that was one minute and thirty seconds, Mr.
24 Clubine. And there a soft spoken biologist as Mr. Clubine I
25 do encourage you to put your mouth right very close to the

0026

1 microphone. Is that not right, sir? So you can be heard by
2 all. Thank you. Very, very good. Thank you. Please ma'am.

3 MS. COLLINS: Thank you. My name is Stevie Collins.
4 I'm the third leg of the Society for Range Management stool.
5 I am from Clay County, Missouri and I would like to add a
6 couple of supporting comments.

7 SRM supports the enhancement of biodiversity and
8 complex ecosystems. It strives to enhance and promote this
9 through an understanding of complex grasslands, ag economics
10 and an integration of sound grazing principles in the interest
11 of sustaining wildlife habitats, diverse plant communities and
12 landowner livelihoods.

13 It supports the cooperation between state, federal,
14 local agency, landowners as the Bedrock of all foreign
15 movement. SRM supports the proper use of prescribed fires, a
16 tool in restoring and maintaining functional plant
17 communities, which include grasslands, savannahs and glades.

18 In addition, SRM recognizes managed grazing as an
19 indispensable tool for restoring and sustaining a historic
20 function of rangeland.

21 There is currently only limited acknowledgement
22 within certain federal agencies, such as NRCS, of the value of
23 rangeland or even the definition of rangeland in the eastern
24 United States.

25 Regarding the policy we would suggest a short term

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1 set aside of five or six years with possible rotations that
2 would aid farmers in accomplishing important management goals

3 and a possible modification of USDA policy to increase the
4 efficacy of conservation programs that would be to combine the
5 funding for WHIP, EQIP and keeping the conservation security
6 program.

7 And in addition, combining the easement programs of
8 the wetland reserve and the grassland reserve and dedicate
9 them to the preservation and restoration in rare and declining
10 habitat.

11 In conclusion, I would like to give examples of two
12 cooperative conservation efforts in Missouri. The first is
13 the grassland coalition consisting of over fifteen partners,
14 whose purpose is to restore and expand grassland habitats and
15 the associated wildlife.

16 The second is Kansas City wild lands, which EPA is a
17 partner, and it focuses on protecting, restoring and managing
18 the native landscapes in and around the Kansas City area and
19 over thirty partners are involved with that. Thank you very
20 much.

21 MR. WITTER: Thank you, ma'am. Commenter 4, please.
22 Thank you, sir -- or ma'am, I'm sorry.

23 MS. ROBERTS: My name is Constance Roberts. I am
24 from Rolla, Missouri. And I am here as a private citizen
25 concerning citizens for natural resources. And I am a

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1 practicing voter. I would like to welcome you to Missouri,
2 the Show-Me State, and I want to show you -- I hope to show
3 you that Missouri -- Missourians do care for our natural
4 resources.

5 If you haven't picked up one of these Missouri
6 Conservation Magazines, please do. This particular
7 publication just came out in September and in it shows that
8 Missourians do care about our next generation.

9 There are several articles in it that shows how
10 cooperation between not-for-profits, private owners,
11 government agencies, including state and federal agencies can
12 work together in the -- for the benefit of our natural
13 resources.

14 It is sad that the conservationists understand and
15 values the fact that we are borrowing against the needs of
16 generations to come. I ask that we do not put them into a
17 deficit.

18 Missourians recently showed we value our natural
19 resources and children by overwhelming reauthorizing our
20 conservation tax. This shows that Missouri citizens are
21 willing to foot the bill for conservation outcomes. The
22 Federal Government can do the same.

23 The Endangered Species Act needs to be reauthorized
24 and fully funded in order to enhance wildlife habitat and
25 species protection.

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1 Missourian landowners have also cooperated with
2 Missouri Department of Conservation to fence off -- fence off
3 buffered zones along our beautiful springs. The Federal
4 Government can promote such protection of habitats for
5 national security.

6 To sum up I would like to say that the Federal
7 Government can fully fund the Endangered Species Act, promote

8 protection of habitats, especially along our coast and plug
9 into research being done at universities, such as UMR, in
10 alternative energy, such as --

11 MR. WITTER: Thank you very much. I appreciate it.
12 Thank you, ma'am. Please, sir.

13 MR. HOOVER: My name is Roland Hoover. I am here
14 representing the River Bluffs Audubon Society, which is of the
15 City of Jefferson. We have about three hundred members and we
16 meet regularly --

17 MR. WITTER: Speak into the microphone please, sir.

18 MR. HOOVER: Okay. Cooperative conservation sounds
19 good. Everybody needs cooperation. We as bird watchers would
20 sit at home and look at our bird feeders if it wasn't for the
21 cooperation of everything that let's us travel about the
22 country and seek the species of birds for us to watch.

23 Our concern, as one of our members, is the private
24 practices will be motivated to enter into partnerships during
25 this cooperative conservation movement and it will localize

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1 conservation and weaken regulation.

2 The specific regulation we are concerned about is
3 what the lady before me spoke about and that is the Endangered
4 Species Act. The Endangered Species Act is not broken. We
5 don't need to fix it. We need to strengthen it.

6 99 percent of the endangered species that are placed
7 on the list survive today. 68 percent of those have recovered
8 and are moving to higher levels because more of the species is
9 surviving.

10 Particularly, I am interested in the American Bald
11 Eagle. As a young man I was able to see bald eagles every
12 winter, but now I'm able to see them spring, find their nest.
13 I can take you to some of their nests, if you would like me to
14 do that.

15 Another example of cooperation bringing things to a
16 fore end is the sale of resources for Teshekpuk,
17 T-E-S-H-E-K-P-U-K, Lake Reserve in Alaska. There's an article
18 in the new National Geographic about this.

19 We are asking that Secretary Kempken (sic) of

20 Department of the Interior not auction off this land next
21 month as is proposed. This is a wetland that is supporting
22 many birds. One particular bird is the yellow-billed cuckoo,
23 which is endangered and he needs this land to propitiate.

24 MR. WITTER: Thank, you sir. I appreciate your
25 comment. Thank you, sir. Commenters six through ten, please.

0031

1 Please, No. 6.

2 MS. DENNY: Hi, I'm Betty Denny. And I live in St.
3 Louis, but -- can everyone hear me -- okay.

4 MR. WITTER: Go ahead, ma'am, right into the
5 microphone. That would be great.

6 MS. DENNY: I live in St. Louis, but I have a small
7 acreage in Reynolds County, which I'm very, very proud to say
8 in 2005 and 2006 I planned -- planned a forest plan with the
9 conservation -- Missouri Conservation Forester and we did
10 complete that plan and the primary trust of that plan was for
11 biodiversity and so that is what I am very -- most interested

12 in.

13 And so I have two requests of you. And that is,
14 number one, you handle and manage and ensure that public lands
15 are managed primarily for biodiversity and for species that
16 are endangered, threatened or at risk. And number two, that
17 you enforce and fully fund the Endangered Species Act. Thank
18 you very much.

19 MR. WITTER: Thank you, ma'am. No. 7, please.

20 MR. BEDAN: My name David Bedan. And I live in
21 Columbia, Missouri. And I'm a member of the Board of Trustees
22 of Audubon Missouri, which is the State Office of the National
23 Wildlife Society.

24 I echo Mr. Hoovers' comments about the Endangered
25 Species Act. We don't think it's broken, it just needs to be

0032

1 fully implemented and funded. And while we support the
2 cooperative conservation, we don't think it's a substitute for
3 full enforcement of the Endangered Species Act.

4 We do have a number of cooperative projects in
5 Missouri. One of them as part of our Bird Area Program, we're
6 involved in a community and landowner based approach
7 conserving native grasslands near the Hi Lonesome Prairie
8 Conservation Area adjacent to the southern Missouri town of
9 Cole Camp.

10 This is a grassland landscape that could benefit
11 from some tweaks in the Natural Resources Conservation
12 Services Incentive Programs that favor habitat. For example,
13 later laying (phonetic) requirement to protect nesting of
14 grasslands birds. Perhaps offset by NRCS payments to
15 compensate the landowners for the losses due to the delay in
16 laying (phonetic).

17 Another project is IBA project is opining of the
18 Savanna Restoration Project. And I know this was talked about
19 in St. Louis Cooperative Conference last year.

20 This could be a model for sustainable timbering
21 involving multiple public and private partners and eventually
22 leading to the reintroduction of the brown-headed nuthatch and
23 the red-cockaded woodpecker.

24 We're also working on some -- developing some
25 Audubon centers, which are primarily educational centers. The

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1 first is under construction now in Joplin and that project
2 could benefit from some further federal green building and
3 alternative energy incentives.

4 Another Audubon center is in the planning stages in
5 St. Louis, where we'll be working with the Corp of Engineers
6 and we would benefit some increased -- clearer ways to share
7 resources between the Federal Government and not-for-profits.

8 And finally for in someone who spent a year in
9 Alaska with the military, I echo Mr. Hoovers' comments about
10 preservation of those fragile habitats, which are easy to
11 damage and very hard to recover. Thank you.

12 MR. WITTER: Thank you sir. Presenter 8, please, or
13 Presenter 9.

14 MR. SOOKIE: Good afternoon. My name is Norm Sookie
15 (phonetic.) I'm fisheries consultant for Bass Pro Shops with
16 headquarters in Springfield, Missouri.

17 I appreciate this opportunity to share several
18 examples of how our company is cooperatively partnering with
19 state and federal natural resource agencies to address habitat
20 issues and further the conservation costs throughout the
21 nation.

22 The first example is the White River Fisheries
23 Partnership. Bass Pro Shops is proud to be recognized as one
24 of the founding and actively participating members with this
25 partnership that was formed in 2001.

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1 The mission statement at this organization reads as
2 follows: The White River Fisheries Partnership establishes
3 common and achievable objectives, designed to enhance
4 recreational fishing opportunities developed through a
5 federal, state and private partnership.

6 In the interest of time, pardon me, I will not name
7 all the participating agencies of stake holders and simply say
8 that thanks to the work being done by this very active
9 partnership the future is bright for recreational fishing and a
10 quiet habitat in the White River Basin.

11 Example two, the Habitat Barge Program. In 2001
12 Bass Pro Shops and Tracker Machine engineers teamed up with
13 fisheries marine biologists and aquatic scientists from the
14 Missouri Department of Conservation and the Arkansas Game and
15 Fish Commission to design and construct two habitat barges
16 capable of safely handling and placing large stumps, boulders
17 and twenty-five to thirty-foot tall cedar trees in
18 impoundments lacking woody parts for aquatic habitats.

19 And in the spring of 2005 engineers again met with
20 biologists and scientists, who had for two years operated the
21 prototype barges, to discuss modifications and design changes
22 to ensure that the second generation habitat barge would be an
23 even more efficient, effective tool in the hands of fishery
24 managers.

25 Through improved habitat barges are now restoring

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1 and enhancing fishery habitats in the States of Missouri,
2 Arkansas, Oklahoma and Nevada. And several more barges are
3 under construction in the interest in this management tool is
4 running high as a result of a recent article in Bass Times,
5 which referred to them as a "wonder barge".

6 Final example. In September 2004, the Association
7 of Fish and Wildlife Agencies agreed to take the lead in
8 developing what is now know as the National Fisheries Habitat
9 Initiative.

10 Bass Pro Shops is proud to have one of two private
11 industry representatives serving on the corp work team
12 responsible for developing the roadmap for this National
13 Initiative.

14 And just this past spring, as further of evidence of
15 Pro Shop's commitment to the future of quality fishing in the
16 United States, our company pledged to work with the National
17 Fishing Wildlife Foundation and help raise \$100 million
18 dollars over the next five years to help fund habitat
19 enhancement and restoration projects that are developed as
20 part of this nation.

21 MR. WITTER: The Court thank you's a good number to

22 ends on. Thank you, sir. Please, sir.

23 MR. OETTING: Good afternoon. I'm Steve Oetting.
24 I'm a corn and soybean and pork producer from Concordia,
25 Missouri. I'm a Lafayette Soil Water Conservation District

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1 Supervisor and currently serving as President of Missouri
2 Association Soil and Water Conservation District and I'm also
3 Missouri's Representative on the National Association of
4 Conservation District's Board.

5 As we look at the issues that we were addressing
6 today. CSP is one that comes out very strongly to me. I am
7 enrolled in CSP and would like to expand the acreage that I
8 have. However, the funding is not available.

9 When we look at the CSP programs as it was written
10 in the 2002 Farm Bill, water quality, sediment retention,
11 incentives for nutrient management, crop counting were all a
12 part of it.

13 I think these are very unique programs and very
14 beneficial to reducing the Hypoxia area that runs in the
15 Mississippi River. It is also showing a benefit to
16 agriculture and I live 100 percent off of agriculture. My
17 wife and I have done this for, approximately, twenty-eight
18 years.

19 So the federal dollars coming in to show us how to
20 do things and to reward us for what we have are a definite
21 asset to the future of agriculture.

22 As we look at the '02 Farm Bill it was kind of put
23 in as a conservation farm bill. I take LDPs, like many other
24 producers, but I really think that the path that we need to go
25 down is the put dollars into conservation, not into

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1 production.

2 We need keep the same amount of federal dollars
3 coming into agriculture. Currently disposable income -- 10
4 percent of disposable income is spent on food. Federal
5 dollars are important to keep agriculture solvent.

6 One of the things that -- the possibility of hitting
7 some of the programs within Missouri that are sales and parks
8 tax does not hit, I would like to see some federal funds
9 established where the State DNR could use a matching grant
10 approach to address some of the issues that we currently
11 cannot in our sales and parks tax.

12 In closing, conservation on the ground today will
13 show the benefits tomorrow. The longer we wait, the more
14 we'll lose. Let's use the programs that we have to the
15 fullest. Let's fund them and let's keep everything going the
16 way it was wrote in the '02 Farm Bill.

17 MR. WITTER: Thank you, sir. Next, please.

18 MR. CRAMER: Good afternoon. My name is Tom Cramer.
19 I'm the Soil and Water Warden in Montgomery County. I live in
20 rural Montgomery County. I'm also the chairman for the local
21 NRC, which we are trying to form at this time.

22 Some of our concerns, of course, the funding and it
23 seems to be the trend that more of the local people are
24 expected to do more and there's less people to do that and the
25 only way we get a lot of our work done is through personal

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1 contact. We need people on the ground doing this kind of
2 work.

3 Another thing with CSP, a concern by some of the
4 people that have forest ground and maybe their entire ground
5 is all forest, no crops or open ground for grazing they are
6 not eligible for this program.

7 Another thing is the talks of regulation and we all
8 know that any kind of special wildlife, our conservation
9 regulation there is no clients if people do not understand
10 what it is they're requesting to do or commanding to do
11 without opines all the laws in country side does not help. We
12 have to have a reasonable loss to affect conservation. That's
13 my comments and I thank you.

14 MR. WITTER: Thank you, sir. This brings us to
15 group eleven through fifteen. Please move to the microphone
16 at your convenience.

17 MS. ASMUS: Good afternoon, my name is Susan Asmus,
18 A-S-M-U-S. I'm here on behalf of National Association of Home
19 Builders. I'm coming from Washington D.C.

20 I'm pleased to have the opportunity to be here to
21 discuss ways to improve relationships and environmental
22 outcomes. And I'd like to thank the administration for
23 including the public in their deliberations.

24 In looking at the thirty plus years since the
25 implementation of the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species

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1 Act and other environmental laws there continue to be
2 successes and failures, but there are also opportunities.
3 These opportunities can only be realized, however, if the
4 challenges are overcome.

5 First, these laws are over thirty years old. As a
6 result they are rarely flexible enough to accommodate new
7 information, forward new ideals or facilitate innovation.

8 Thus NHB believes that legislative reform of the
9 Endangered Species Act and the Clean Water Act must be
10 seriously considered.

11 Second, the barrier to "doing the right thing" for
12 the environment must be removed. For example, it makes little
13 sense for a landowner to take steps to improve habitat on his
14 or her property if the Fish and Wildlife Service is going to
15 later deem it critical habitat.

16 Similarly while many tout the ideals and benefits of
17 low impact development it loses it's appeal when one learns
18 that the natural looking storm water conveyance channel may
19 letter be deemed a water of the United States and subject to
20 all of the burden associated with Section 404.

21 Another barrier is the permitting programs
22 themselves. In my nearly twenty years of environmental
23 permitting experience compliance has only gotten more
24 difficult. Removing disincentives, simplifying permitting,
25 clarifying standards and establishing shared roles and

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1 expectations up front could all contribute significantly to
2 improving conservation.

3 Finally, more incentives and better carrots must be
4 created. Market driven solutions like wetlands mitigation

5 banking or habitat trading, holistic approaches, like regional
6 water shed plans and consumer recognition program similar to
7 Energy Star or Green Building could all lead to better
8 environmental outcome. Thank you.

9 MR. WITTER: Thank you, ma'am.

10 MR. POISTER: Good afternoon. Thank you for the
11 opportunity to speak. My name is Paul Poister with
12 Partnership for the West. That is P-O-I-S-T-E-R. The
13 partnership is based in Golden, Colorado.

14 Mr. Tenny, you'll be pleased to know that
15 conservation is alive and well in your alma mater. The
16 coaching staff cancelled the last day of training to take the
17 team on a float trip down the Provo river, so they're enjoying
18 the outdoors in Provo this spring.

19 The Partnership for the West is a broad-based
20 alliance of people who support a clean environment and a
21 healthy growing economy.

22 The partnership's membership includes more than six
23 hundred companies and associations, coalitions and
24 individuals, who collectively employ or represent more than
25 one million people across America in sectors including farming

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1 and ranching, coal, forestry, small business, utilities, oil
2 and gas, construction, reactional advocates and state and
3 local government elected officials.

4 The topic that's already gotten a lot of attention
5 here this afternoon is the need to modernize the Endangered
6 Species Act.

7 Of the more than thirteen hundred species in the
8 United States that have been listed has threatened or
9 endangered less than 1 percent have successfully been
10 recovered.

11 Unfortunately, when it comes to the ESA political
12 science trumps real science and in the field conservation is
13 droughted out by never ending litigation from activists,
14 lawyers.

15 Congress is working to enact meaningful reform of
16 the ESA and we encourage the administration to act now to make
17 this law work better.

18 We'll provide written comments with extensive
19 recommendations, but I'd like briefly to touch upon a few of
20 the specific ideas about how the ESA would be updated and
21 modernized.

22 Ensure the species listing Petitions and critical
23 habitat designations meet minimum scientific standards and
24 ensure that all data is made available to the public.

25 Remove the bureaucratic barriers, the voluntary
0042

1 participation in conservation programs and establish
2 consistent rules, policies and procedures for designating
3 critical habitat.

4 I'll wrap up, so I don't get tossed out, but thank
5 you for the opportunity. We looking forward to providing
6 written comments for the record.

7 MR. WITTER: Thank you very much, sir.

8 MR. THESSSEN: No. 14. My name is Bill Thessen,

9 T-H-E-S-S-E-N. I'm a farmer from Cole County. I appreciate
10 the comments of the fella that came out of the audience up
11 there on involvement of the farmers up at Smithville -- is
12 that right?

13 I'm kind of hard of hearing, so I didn't get all of
14 what you had to say, but that's one thing I want to touch on
15 is better respect for the interest of the joining farmers to
16 these projects that NRCS and FSA implemented. That wasn't
17 done in our case.

18 I farmed this land for -- ever since 1975 and they
19 literally told us what they were going to do. They took
20 nineteen acres out of fifty and put into the CP 22 Program.

21 In 2002 we heard this was going to happen and I
22 spoke the technician at that time and he said I don't think
23 that you're going to qualify, but in 2004 we had a signed
24 contract.

25 Even though I cited numerous things that weren't
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1 done for the project to qualify. I don't want anybody to get
2 the idea that I got a negative attitude, but this habitat
3 we've got it. It's already there.

4 We've got -- we call it woods or I guess some people
5 will call it a forest, but these deer and turkeys live in
6 these adjoining areas and there's a lot of corn and beans that
7 they could feast on. When they run out of food across the
8 Osage River they come over there and feast off of us.

9 And as far as habitat goes I know there is places
10 for forest to be established like in the prairie areas and
11 where there is no -- no cover and not much to eat either, I
12 guess.

13 So like I said, we've already got the habitat and
14 have been feeding these animals for almost fifty years, that's
15 something the farmer doesn't get much credit for.

16 MR. WITTER: Mr. Thessen, if I may, sir. I'm sorry
17 to interrupt. Please forgive the interruption, but that was
18 two minutes and thirty-eight seconds. I'm actually giving you
19 a grace period.

20 MR. THESSSEN: I told you I was long winded.

21 MR. WITTER: Thank you, sir. I appreciate it.

22 MR. THESSSEN: I appreciate it.

23 MR. WITTER: Thank you, sir. That should -- was
24 that all of the group eleven through fifteen? If no one else
25 moves to the microphone in that group we're going to ask

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1 sixteen through twenty to come to the microphone. Group
2 sixteen through twenty. Please ma'am.

3 MS. VOLLMER: I'm Jennifer Vollmer from Laramie,
4 Wyoming. And I'm here representing both the -- I'm on the
5 Steering Committees for Boards of the Center for Evasive Plant
6 Management, Weed and Plant Society of America, Aquatic Plant
7 Management Society, Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation
8 and also the Western Wildfire Impact Reduction Resource
9 Center, so a broad group of people.

10 Comments I do have in the black box, but I want to
11 highlight some main points. Just, first of all, cooperation
12 of partnerships is definitely the way to go.

13 And really the effort that the Federal Government's

14 putting into funding those things is really appreciated, but
15 the one thing I want to bring to your attention is hundreds of
16 partnerships that are all ready formed.

17 Some of form lines are used and some are just people
18 who have gotten together that have the same drive or the force
19 behind them, which is a lot of times a basic lead and any time
20 these people are after -- controlling a basic lead there are
21 real end goals actually to conservation.

22 They can control those leads and they're going to
23 end up with range improvement, habitat, soil stabilization,
24 water conservation or simply improving aesthetics.

25 So I strongly encourage you to utilize these groups
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1 that are already formed, not just including funding or
2 including the Spartina Control and Eradication Act as one of
3 the programs within cooperative conservation.

4 Also, funding of the Center for Evasive Plant
5 Management within the USDA ARS budget. And also, inclusion of
6 plant management in ESA reform I do feel like that is broken.
7 I think it concentrates too much on development and not enough
8 on habitat improvement.

9 And then the other thing I'd like to talk about is
10 the Healthy Forest Partnership Act, that was referred to on
11 the website. And I want to say this healthy forest initiative
12 has been an extremely successful program, especially in the
13 forested areas.

14 I don't think there's a person out west that doesn't
15 know what's in a forest to mitigate fire, but the missing
16 component is the emphasis on the fuel treatments on rangeland.

17 Right now a policy just came through about brush to
18 be removed and nothing is done about fine fuels. And there's
19 got to be a fine fuel component within -- if there is a
20 Healthy Forest Partnership Act there's got to be fine fuel's
21 component for us. Thank you.

22 MR. WITTER: Thank you, ma'am. Please, sir.

23 MR. OSBORNE: I guess we lost 17, 18 and 19.

24 Welcome to the great State of Missouri. My name is Terry
25 Osborne and I own Osborne Homes in Springfield, Missouri.

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1 I'm representing the Home Builders Association of
2 the Greater Springfield Area. My comments are set around the
3 Clean Water Act, Storm Water Permit Program.

4 The EPA current storm water regulations are complex,
5 excessive, costly and oftentimes duplicate the efforts of
6 state and local governments.

7 Home builders believe there should be storm water
8 regulations, but they also believe those regulations should be
9 reasonable, thoughtful and fair.

10 We also believe that more effective environmental
11 protection will come from simple, consistent rules and
12 encourage compliance.

13 To further the ideals of cooperative conservation
14 there are a number of steps that can be taken to improve water
15 quality while simplifying and facilitating compliance.

16 First, the permitting programs should be simplified
17 by eliminating duplicate permit requirements. One way to
18 accomplish this is by improving coordination with the states

19 and facilitating the recognition and adoption of qualifying
20 local programs. The programs should also be streamline by
21 adopting single lot permit or other information.

22 Second, EPA and the state should collaborate to
23 develop consistent enforcement of policies and a focus on
24 environmental protection.

25 For example, updating the expedited settlement

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1 program, improving inspection majors and deferring to state
2 enforcement to further demonstrate the agency's commitment to
3 water quality.

4 Finally, collaborative compliance must be
5 implemented to ensure widespread awareness of the program and
6 improve overall compliance.

7 Clearly, storm water regulations that are well
8 coordinated, that are simple and fair will encourage
9 compliance and in the end do more to protect rivers and
10 streams of the current system. Thanks for the opportunity.

11 MR. WITTER: Thank you, sir. That should have
12 included everyone in the group sixteen through twenty. Just
13 to review, we should have at this point got -- allowed to come
14 to the microphone everyone one through twenty. One through
15 twenty. In which case twenty-one through twenty-five, please.
16 Please, sir, you may go ahead. At the microphone, please.

17 MR. CLARK: My name is Bill Clark. I'm the --
18 Columbia, Missouri. I'm President of the Columbia Audubon
19 Society, Historic for the Audubon Society of Missouri and the
20 primary columnist for the Columbia Daily Tribune approaching
21 many things, politics, the environment, et cetera.

22 I have two items. I only have one number. One of
23 them I'll mail to you and that's in my regard to the clean
24 air, clean water, the endangered species and so forth, but I
25 want to dwell just briefly on the grass roots issue.

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1 The Audubon Society of Missouri and Columbia Audubon
2 Society are involved with the Missouri Department of
3 Conservation in a project in which birders visit the seven
4 hundred sixty or so conservation areas, lakes, accesses,
5 memorial areas in our state to develop a year round bird list
6 for each.

7 The project's goal is to ID -- identify any special
8 management needs which Missouri Department of Corrections
9 (sic) -- Conservation can address -- well, they were here
10 earlier. For instance, Swainson's Warblers are rare in
11 Missouri and found in the canebrakes primarily just north of
12 the Arkansas border, a major nesting area is in a series of
13 the Department's river accesses.

14 The Department is quite aware of the fragile habitat
15 of this nesting area and manages accordingly. This is a new
16 program, which has brought together both the Missouri
17 Department of Conservation and birders, who often butt heads,
18 into a program that is both fun and vital and statewide.

19 Now, Missouri has many areas of national forest and
20 many of nation's top horticulturists, both professional and
21 amateur, live here. I personally -- and as a leader in both
22 state and local Audubon societies would welcome the Fish and
23 Wildlife Service and Forest Service to ask us for help.

24 Now, just in case -- we'll just check to see whether
25 you were listening. The cost is zero. All you have to do is
0049

1 pick up the phone. Thank you.

2 MR. WITTER: Thank you, Mr. Clark. Thank you for
3 you comment, sir. Please, sir.

4 MR. GORDON: I'm Troy Gordon from Columbia,
5 Missouri. I'm chairman of Friends of Big Muddy, which is a
6 group that supports the Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife
7 Refuge. It's located along the Missouri River between Kansas
8 City and St. Louis.

9 We have, approximately, six hundred members across
10 the State of Missouri and basically work to provide volunteer
11 service for the refuge.

12 We have three main areas that we work. We hold fun
13 activities on the refuge areas to encourage people to get and
14 out and explore the areas.

15 We do a variety of work days to support the refuge
16 project and we also have booths at area festivals and events

17 to promote the refuge and let people know that it exists.

18 As I read through this card I want to say that the
19 Big Muddy Refuge is doing these things already and they're
20 doing them very, very well.

21 I have a list of projects that I can go into, but
22 there isn't time, but I will say that the refuge works with
23 Scout groups. They work with conservation organizations,
24 sportsman's organizations. They work with local communities
25 and they are indeed cooperating with them and doing a variety

0050
1 of projects that are -- provide good support for the refuge.

2 Having said that, there are problems. I'd be the
3 first to say and it probably doesn't surprise you that the
4 leading problem is a lack of money.

5 The refuge needs additional monies for continued
6 acquisitions. They have a couple of acquisitions that are
7 hopefully up -- in process. Once those are concluded their
8 acquisitions will be completed.

9 In addition, the refuge needs money to build the
10 visitors center to interpret the Missouri River and the
11 wildlife habitats to the general public.

12 The refuge needs monies for something as simple as
13 to have a boundary surveys completed, so they can actually put
14 boundary signs along the refuge areas. Some of the units
15 don't have boundary signs and that's a problem for adjacent
16 landowners, because people unknowingly trespass onto private
17 land.

18 Finally, the refuge needs money to continue habitat
19 restoration efforts and to control non-invasive species,
20 especially plant species, like Johnson grass and purple
21 loostrife.

22 But again, the refuge is doing things right. They
23 just need the support from the Federal Government and the
24 region to provide funds they need to continue these efforts.
25 Thank you very much.

0051

1 MR. WITTER: Thank you, sir. Does that conclude the

2 group twenty-one through twenty-five? Additional call
3 twenty-one through twenty-five?
4 I'm reminded that if you did not get a card as you
5 came in or, in fact, as you've been here and perhaps struck by
6 the spirit of public participation and would like to make a
7 comment. I wonder if you might raise your hand and a card
8 will be gotten to you by one of the staff members in the back.
9 In which case now we'll go twenty-six through thirty.
10 MR. WELLS: Good afternoon. My name is Mike Wells.
11 And I'm representing Missouri Department of Natural Resources.
12 First of all, I would like to emphasize the importance of
13 state -- I'm from Jefferson City, I'm sorry.
14 I'd like to emphasize the importance of state and
15 local government being a true partner with the Federal
16 Government. When programs are -- Federal Programs are
17 established the local and state partners need to be involved
18 in the planning up front.
19 Many times we're put in a reactionary mode where we
20 have to react to a program that's already in place. Also, if
21 I'd like to point out when programs are put in the place,
22 especially when partners are involved, we need to adequately
23 fund those programs both at the local, state and federal level
24 and maintain the funding throughout the program. Many times
25 we start programs and then funding dies down.

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1 One of the truly model programs in Missouri is it's
2 Soil and Water Conservation Program. We've already heard
3 today about the passage of the sales tax that was passed only
4 three weeks ago today by a 71 percent vote.
5 This is a good example of how federal, local and
6 state partners work together. The Natural Resource
7 Conservation Service, the Soil and Water Program of the State,
8 University of Missouri, Department of Conservation, local Soil
9 and Water Conservation work together and the State solved this
10 effort in passage of the tax. So this is just a good role
11 model of how state, local and federal should be working
12 together.

13 Successful partners are built from the ground floor.
14 You've already heard this today. We have several great
15 partnerships in this State, but they just need federal and
16 state assistance and resources to get going to enter a
17 partnership the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, Northwest
18 Missouri, Water Supply Project, just to name a few of many
19 local partnerships that are locally led, local initiatives.

20 One of the other things that we need mention today
21 is future compliance with an environmental mandate will
22 require more local, state and federal partners.

23 And as you well know, Jim, we're faced with many
24 infrastructure needs in this state, including clean water and
25 public drinking water. This is going to have to be local,

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1 state and federal partnership to solve this these issues.

2 We don't need additional federal requirements. This
3 is becoming a huge federal financial and technical burden for
4 the states, especially when there's not sound science to
5 support this. We need to make sure we have sound science to

6 support any additional requirements. Thank you.

7 MR. WITTER: Thank you, sir. Please, ma'am.

8 MS. FARNSWORTH: Hi. I'm Margo Farnsworth. I'm
9 with the Cumberland River Compact. I'm their Senior Fellow
10 from the Cumberland River Basin in Tennessee and Kentucky.

11 First of all, I would like very much if you all
12 would take thanks back to EPA. We were one of your first
13 twenty targeted watersheds initiative grant awardees and we
14 told you we would take three houses and make them water and
15 energy friendly by working with partners and we've turned that
16 into pledges for over a thousand. So I think that underscores
17 the importance of capacity building.

18 And indeed, like the builder who just came up here
19 and spoke, when we talk to builders they say: We would be
20 happy to make water and energy friendly houses if we didn't
21 have to get variances for everything.

22 That underscores something that I've heard from many
23 of our stake holders; and that is, that there is a lot of
24 times a break down between the Federal Government down to the
25 local government in terms of getting laws expressed and

0054

1 enforced. And so making that level of communication more
2 efficient and effective even within departments, I know I've
3 heard it from personnel.

4 A second thing is I'd like to thank you for the
5 wonderful personnel that you all have. The watershed
6 coordinators from EPA and the DCs from USDA, the funding for
7 those DCs to continue educating, to continue to get out to the
8 public.

9 It was a District Conservationist who came up in a
10 stake holder meeting and was giving us information from
11 science about calfs and calf mortality from standing in muddy
12 water and fencing cattle out of the creek and increasing
13 weight gain that enabled us to take that to farmers and now
14 we're able to fence a lot more cows out of the creek and
15 provide alternate watering system and emergency sources to the
16 creek. And so those people, your staff, have helped
17 immensely.

18 Third, integrating land and water programs.
19 Protecting land is the best way to protect water. They
20 probably found out up at Smithville buffer zones. You all are
21 both familiar with and if you could help us in funding with
22 capacity building to our colleagues at RC&D and others who are
23 able to get out here and talk to the people, we would very
24 much appreciate it. Just recognizing the power of capacity
25 building. And thank you so much for being here.

0055

1 MR. WITTER: Thank you, ma'am. Just to review that
2 should have covered presenters one through thirty. One
3 through thirty. Any others in that group? Thirty-one through
4 thirty-five, please. Thirty-one through thirty-five. Please,
5 sir. Thank you.

6 MR. LOCKARD: Good afternoon. I'm Allen Lockard
7 from Pike County, Missouri. And I'm a Missouri company owner
8 called American Botanicals.

9 I've been in the industry for thirty years and I'm
10 here representing American Herbal Products Association today.

11 I'm on the raw materials committee and the alternate culture
12 (phonetic) committee.
13 We are working in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and
14 Wildlife on the conservation education for collectors of wild
15 American herbs. We are concerned that many of the national,
16 state forest have been prohibited from issuing collection
17 permits of the herbal products that we use.
18 Non-harvesting of plants do not necessarily increase
19 plant populations. We promote multiple use and sustainable
20 yield permits. And we believe that good conservation
21 practices increase plant populations.
22 So we are asking for harvesting by permit on state
23 and federal properties and also to increase cooperation
24 between businesses and Government to monitor the plants as
25 they the harvest on those government lands. Thank you.

0056

1 MR. WITTER: Thank you very much, sir.
2 MR. BROZ: Bob Broz. University of Missouri
3 Extension. Two things that I think would actually help. I
4 have to agree with what Mike Wells and Margo both said. You
5 all are doing a fantastic job, but the big issue currently --
6 what we see is capacity building of local citizens.
7 This can be improved certainly with more assistance
8 given to the RC&Ds, extension programing, the private land
9 people at the Department of conservation. Those people are
10 out there on the ground working more effectively to get things
11 done and working directly with those local citizens.
12 If we want to see more work being done that way we
13 need bring us back to local level. Give the local NRCS, the
14 local extension, the local MBC responsibility to take the
15 board back to EPA, USDA at the national and regional levels.
16 They're the ones who work with the 93 percent of the land
17 that's owned by private citizens.
18 The second thing that can be done from the
19 Washington level is to learn how to bend from what your
20 primary directive is. So that instead of doing what's
21 necessary for your individual group to actually bend enough
22 that you can actually work for the good of the common people
23 out here.

24 Each individual group has an individual directive,
25 which is very hard to get passed sometimes. We've talked the

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1 same story until we say: Oh, that doesn't quite meet what we
2 can do. So then we're having to force ourselves to work
3 around the backside of things.
4 At the state level we work at the fringes sometimes
5 to be able to meet some of the things we're asked to give
6 nationally. Thank you.
7 MR. WITTER: Thank you, sir. Any others in the
8 group thirty-one through thirty-five? Thirty-six through
9 forty. I'm beginning to see a pattern here. Forty-one
10 through forty-five. Anyone else who wanted to make a comment?
11 Thank you, sir.
12 Okay. As long as we have, say, about five folks I
13 wonder if you might just -- I bet you can do that all by
14 yourselves get to the microphones. And please, sir, go ahead.
15 MR. ASBURY: Thank you, Dan. Gentlemen, thank you

16 for the opportunity to speak with you today regarding the
17 issues of importance to the Missouri River Stake Holders.

18 I'm Randy Asbury, Higbee, Missouri, Executive
19 Director of the Coalition to Protect Missouri River or CPR. A
20 group that represents the diverse interest of agricultural,
21 navigational, industrial, utility and business related
22 entities dependent on the Missouri River.

23 Due to our time constraints today, I will address
24 only one issue important to agriculture. We are concerned
25 with the excessive transfer of private property and public

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1 ownership for mitigation purposes in the Missouri River
2 floodplain.

3 The Missouri River floodplain is home to some of the
4 most productive agricultural land in the United States and the
5 systematic transfer of that land to public ownership is

6 detrimental to our stake holders in the counties which that
7 land is found.

8 Much of the land that is publicly acquired is no
9 longer in use for its most beneficial purpose, agricultural
10 production. To that end local business and counties are
11 harmed by the reduced tax base and reduced purchases and
12 investments made by farmers who no longer farm that land.

13 Unfortunately, when land is transferred to public
14 ownership property taxes are no longer by the private
15 landowners, instead the Government makes payments in lieu of
16 taxes of that many times don't match personal property tax
17 levels and many times not paid at all due to the lack of
18 funding by the Federal Government.

19 When this occurs our local school districts and
20 others depending on county tax bases are harmed. One answer
21 to this situation is to reduce the need for public land
22 acquisition through mono programs, such as the Wildlife
23 Habitat Incentive Program or WHIP.

24 This is a voluntary program for those who desire to
25 develop and improve wildlife habitat on private land. This

0059

1 particular program can provide a 75 percent cost share to
2 establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat through
3 contracts that generally last five to ten years.

4 We have mentioned programs such as this to the Corp
5 of Engineers, but are continually told they have no
6 authorization to use such programs.

7 With that in mind, I'd suggest that the USDA and the
8 Corp enter into Memorandum of Understanding or agreement to
9 somehow make this program available to our regular farmers.

10 We would like to see it operate at 100 percent cost
11 share to farmers along river, who would like to voluntarily
12 participate in mitigation efforts without selling their
13 property.

14 If additional authorization and/or appropriations
15 are needed to pursue such a 100 percent cost share, we would
16 be happy to assist with that effort.

17 We believe such a program would accomplish the same
18 mitigation benefits without the public acquisition of private
19 property. This would create a win-win situation for the

20 species, the counties and farmers. Thank you.
21 MR. WITTER: Thank you, Mr. Asbury. Thank you, sir.
22 Those remaining to make comments, could you raise your hands
23 please so I can get a count.

24 Okay. I need your counsel. We're at a break time.
25 2:30 was the scheduled break and we can break here. It also

0060

1 affords our honored guest opportunities to put some of their
2 thought together for their closing comments.

3 Apologies to you because that keeps you on pins and
4 needles a little bit as we go into our fifteen-minute break.
5 If I may, may I call that break at this point, 2:30.

6 Everyone has been -- but please, please don't leave
7 and if you want to make a comment come back. Fifteen-minute
8 break. And I will call it back -- call the session back to
9 order promptly at 2:45.

10 (WHEREIN A SHORT BREAK WAS TAKEN.)

11 MR. WITTER: If I may now, returning -- thank you,
12 Mr. Tenny. Numbers forty through forty-five. I think we've
13 captured all numbers prior to that, if not you may join the
14 group. Forty through forty-five. Please. Sir.

15 MR. JORGENSEN: My name is Don Jorgenson (phonetic)
16 and I'm from Jefferson, South Dakota. I'm a Missouri River
17 landowner and I belong to a group called the Protection of --
18 excuse me -- MOARK and Missouri River Technical Group of Sioux
19 City and MOARK in Kansas City.

20 And our objective is to use -- to encourage
21 stewardship and careful use of the Missouri River waters. And
22 as you probably know the Missouri River Basin is a -- in a
23 controversy and there's a large Missouri River problem and
24 it's largely a water war, which is using the ES A as a
25 vehicle.

0061

1 Missouri River has many uses hydropower, wildlife
2 and recreation, navigation, water supply, municipal and --
3 both municipal and industrial irrigation bank stabilization
4 and some others.

5 The U.S. Fish and Wildlife suggests an adapted
6 management by stake holders to manage the river, which is by
7 nature cooperative, okay. And this is a probably an excellent
8 vehicle.

9 Now, we've been down the road slightly. There was a
10 -- what was called a Spring Rise initiative last year, where
11 stake holders from states, cities, tribes, land users,
12 agriculture and many others came together and tried to
13 formulate a plan for the Spring Rise, which was quite
14 controversial.

15 I think it can be said that the Spring Rise
16 initiative got way, although it had some benefits, in essence
17 it failed. And so the question is, not as to will cooperation
18 fail, but why did it fail. I think there are several reasons
19 reasons for that failure.

20 One is that the information from federal and state
21 agencies dealing with the Missouri River are not always
22 available in a timely manner. And additionally, this
23 information is typically given out in a selective manner to
24 those who they think they would like this information to go

25 to.

0062

1 Another part of the problem is effective adaptive
2 management must be based on good science. A buyout (phonetic)
3 is based on many quality items and not that all documents have
4 all the items and it was a worthy event.

5 It had been a good item, but the problem is it
6 relates to the piping -- the piping quote of Interior Least
7 Terns and of Pallid Sturgeon, "If the science in that is
8 faulty, it's unlikely that we'll get much response. So we
9 need to resolve many of these conflicts of interest --

10 MR. WITTER: Sir, I'm sorry to interrupt.

11 THE WITNESS: Okay. Bye.

12 MR. WITTER: Please, sir.

13 MR. JOHNSON: All right. Thank you. Hi. My name
14 is Justin Johnson. I'm from Columbia, Missouri. I'm here
15 today representing the Missouri Prairie Foundation.

16 We're a statewide non-profit group celebrating our
17 40th Anniversary this year. We have about three thousand
18 members and we managed about three thousand acres of prairie
19 property that we've acquired over the last forty years.

20 We actually do -- I wanted to mention. We actually
21 do pay taxes on all the land that we acquire. We pay all of
22 our taxes to be good neighbors.

23 I want to talk to you today just real briefly about
24 three things, consistency of funding, focus of funding and
25 follow through.

0063

1 Consistency of funding, I've been to Washington a
2 few times to talk about a program called the State Wildlife
3 Grant -- State Tribal Wildlife Grants. It's a program created
4 by Congress it's our nation's poor program for keeping
5 wildlife off the endangered species list.

6 Essentially it works, it funnels money from the
7 federal level down to the state level down to the local level
8 to get ahead of that curve in making sure species do not
9 become endangered. It funds conservation species that are not
10 hunted or fished nor endangered and everything in between.

11 And every year that money kind of goes up and down,
12 the funding levels go up and down. It would just be better
13 for natural resources planners if consistent funding were
14 available.

15 Actually, Senator Talent from our state along with
16 Tim Johnson and Dwayne have submitted an amendment -- they
17 have an amendment language spread to stick on a bill that's
18 moving to provide that consistent funding from an offshore oil
19 and gas royalties.

20 As far as focus of funding, Missouri has done a job
21 better than most states of putting together a thing called the
22 State Action Plan. We call it the Comprehensive Wildlife
23 Strategy here in Missouri.

24 It lists all of the places that partners are already
25 ready to go to work and I would just ask that programs focus

0064

1 resources on the places that have already been determined by
2 stake holders to be important to us.

3 And then as far as follow through there's a lot of

4 Federal Programs, such as the Conservation Reserve Program,
5 the Grasslands Reserve Program. They're really good and we
6 just need to make sure that we follow through and make
7 landowners do what they signed up to do, which is make sure
8 that we don't have tall stands of rain grass. I'd just
9 encourage management through fire and grazing to the
10 preservation (phonetic) of the world. Thank you for your
11 time.

12 MR. WITTER: Thank you, sir. That should have
13 afforded everyone one through forty-five opportunities to
14 speak. If not, one through forty-five comes --you're welcome
15 to come to the microphone with the group now. Forty-six
16 through fifty. Forty-six through fifty. Please, sir.

17 MR. BEACOM: Looks like a small group. This
18 cooperative conservation is a nice concept, but I'm a Captain
19 on river. My name is Bill Beacom, B-E-A-C-O-M. And I'd say
20 that when it comes to the Missouri River we're more familiar
21 with confrontational conference in conservation than we are
22 with cooperative conservation.

23 We've been litigating for the last four or five
24 years and we're still litigating. The thing we're litigating
25 over now is kind of nonsense issue because the science doesn't

0065
1 even support the litigation from either side.

2 We're trying to recover species in areas where they
3 really can't be recovered. I think that even though a lot of
4 people don't know a lot about fisheries biology it would be
5 the comparison of trying to recover rabbits in a fox farm.

6 I mean, the river has changed appreciably. It's now
7 clear water below the dams and all of this has taken place for
8 a two hundred mile stretch of river that shouldn't even be
9 considered as viable for recovery of a native species.

10 And so we're moving up and down this thing and I
11 think that if we really want to get anywhere with cooperative
12 conservation, where our foundation is built on confrontational
13 conservation that probably we first should visit common sense
14 conservation.

15 And in order to do that we have to deal with science
16 that's viable. We have to do it with agency people who are
17 not using a leverage that they've gained through the courts.

18 And the people that are mad because they lost now
19 using leverage that they gained through the Endangered Species
20 Act and they're pursuing agendas that are -- were in place all
21 the time that they've been defeated on this through the
22 courts. So it holds up the conservation.

23 And I'm a member of the Middle Basin Recovery of the
24 Pallid Sturgeon and have also been selected for the Oversight
25 Committee and I can see walls instead of doors being built by

0066
1 some of people in the agencies and what will eventually suffer
2 will be the endangered species itself.

3 MR. WITTER: Thank you, sir. Numbers forty-six
4 through fifty? Fifty-one through fifty-five, please, sir.

5 MR. KARPOWICZ: Hello. I'm Jim Karpowicz from
6 Columbia, Missouri. That's K-A-R-P-O-W-I-C-Z. And I'm
7 representing Missouri River Relief.

8 Missouri River Relief is an example of cooperative

9 conservation at work. For years our great rivers have been
10 used as a dumping ground.

11 In 2001 a group of citizens in cooperation with the
12 Missouri Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the
13 EPA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife set out to solve that
14 problem.

15 We're proud of this. Here's what we accomplished.
16 We've had twenty-one community cleanups. We've removed 322
17 tons of trash and debris. We've cleaned up 248 miles of the
18 river.

19 In that process we've engaged 5,013 volunteers to
20 help us in that effort and, of course, Jim Gulliford is one of
21 them, as well as several people in this room have gotten out,
22 gotten money and pulled trash out of the river.

23 As I said we're proud of those results, but this
24 year we're looking forward instead of backwards. Towards that
25 end I wanted to thank the administration for the hard work and

0067
1 commitment of the U.S. Army Department Corp of Engineers and
2 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife regarding the Missouri River
3 mitigation project.

4 In the future the Missouri is going to be a more
5 natural, more healthy and more recreational river. It will be
6 home to endangered species and a full service navigation ship.

7 It's difficult challenge, but on behalf of Missouri
8 River Relief I wanted to thank the Administration for the work
9 being done on the Missouri River.

10 MR. WITTER: Thank you, sir. Please, sir.

11 MR. CLARKSON: Thank you. My name is Heath
12 Clarkson. I'm here today on behalf of the Home Builders
13 Association of Jefferson City. I'd like to welcome you to our
14 great city. We're honored to have this here today.

15 In addition, I'm here speaking on behalf of some of
16 the other affiliates that weren't able to come in from the
17 State of Missouri today. So on behalf of the Homeowner's
18 Association of Missouri, as well, we'd like to make just a few
19 comments.

20 The first being we were honored also today to have
21 Ms. Asmus from our National Trade Association, the National
22 Association of Home Builders. We wholeheartedly agree with
23 her comment. We also agree with her support on the call for
24 legislative action in regards to Clean Water Act.

25 I came mainly talk about the Clean Water Act today.

0068
1 One of my comment would be -- in regards to Green Building
2 locally here in Jefferson City the issue has been brought up
3 many times by our members and the issue that always holds it
4 up is cost.

5 Green Building is more expensive to do. It's very
6 hard to sell something on a market when it costs more. We
7 think economically it needs to be sound so it will happen.

8 The second thing I'd like to add is a gentleman from
9 DNR is here today and Missouri -- we think we have a really
10 good relationship with DNR and the municipalities and we urge
11 if there is any kind of rules or rewrite that you put a lot of
12 consideration into allowing local communities to work together
13 rather than go to the federal level, it's easier to go to the

14 state level and sometimes even the local level.

15 And finally, there's two things I'd like to hit on
16 real briefly. The first is not to rip on any other industry,
17 but sometimes our members feel that they're singled out and I
18 think on the rewrite, if you do a rewrite, or if you change
19 the rules you need to try to make sure that no industry feels
20 like they're singled out and everyone is working together in a
21 coordinated effort to protect the environment.

22 And my final comment is kind of a last little slap,
23 not against anyone, just a comment. We ask that you please be
24 cautious to economics because our business, our industry
25 relies on economics.

0069

1 The price of a home decides if we continue to
2 succeed. And we must reach a balance on the Endangered
3 Species Act, as well as the Storm Water Act to allow
4 systematic growth and for developers to ensure affordable
5 housing continues and that the housing industry does not
6 become endangered itself. Thank you for your time.

7 MR. WITTER: Thank you, sir. Please, sir. Mr.
8 Taylor.

9 MR. TAYLOR: Steve Taylor. Environmental Resources
10 Coalition. And just to follow up on my opening statement
11 presentation regarding the Smithville Project.

12 Following up on that we worked with the folks in
13 southwest Missouri and I want to echo just -- one thing about
14 going last you kind follow up on what some other folks already

15 said. There was a discussion about massive buildings and I
16 think that's very key.

17 In our southwest project, which is very different
18 from Smithville as far as resources are concerned, one thing
19 that's key and that's partnership and cooperation. There's
20 six not-for-profits already down in southwest Missouri that
21 we're working with.

22 One's been there for twenty-five years. Another one
23 just got their 5013(c) status. A lot of what we're trying to
24 do is to help build their capacity to do the work that they're
25 told to do when they're down there in that local area, so I

0070

1 just want to echo that comment.

2 The other thing we're doing down there is what's
3 called a Data Gap Analysis. And there's been lot of
4 discussion about the Endangered Species Act. I think a lot of
5 the issues in the Endangered Species Act could benefit from
6 the Data Gap Analysis.

7 There's discussion about the Missouri River. I
8 found out through the discussion about some of the signs and
9 some of the issues about trying to work together more, about
10 some of the signs on some issues surrounding endangered
11 species.

12 I heard some comment about enforcement versus
13 cooperation. I'm not sure it can't be an either/or. I think
14 there's what we're calling water quality or you're talking
15 species, because there's a place for each and each can work
16 hand in hand.

17 And then finally, one final comment, a different

18 issue is the Hypoxia issue. We are part of the EPA review of
19 that action plan on that issue it is the upper Mississippi
20 River Basin Subcommittee -- I forget the long title, Jim, but
21 anyway on that issue I've been involved in that issue for
22 several years through the '90s.

23 And I think this is an opportunity to -- that issue
24 kind of stalled a little bit and now we're relooking at that

25 issue. And I think, again, we take a good look at that issue,
0071

1 do a Data Gap Analysis, stay true to the science and maybe we
2 can move that forward.

3 MR. WITTER: Thank you, sir. That should have been
4 fifty-one through fifty-five, if I'm not mistaken. Fifty-six
5 through sixty? Sixty-one through sixty-five? Please, sir.

6 MR. MERHOFF: My name is Arthur Merhoff. I'm a
7 Senior Research Fellow with Center for Agriculture Resource
8 Environmental Systems, University of Missouri. I'm also
9 involved with the Missouri River Communities Network's
10 Heritage Tourism Initiative.

11 I think the key to cooperative conservation, at
12 least what I've heard today, is by showing the relationship
13 between resource conservation, economic renewal -- I guess I
14 would throw in the whole issue of fairness, which I think is
15 implied, but maybe not always spoken.

16 I think there are two tools for cooperative
17 conservation that are available. First one is called
18 community design. And community design is a participatory and
19 interactive process that brings together the natural sciences,
20 social sciences -- I know that's a dreaded word -- and the
21 design arts into a systematic way that gets a variety of
22 community voices that are here, so that they can talk to one
23 another and also it helps to get visual images of what
24 cooperative conservation would look like. Words can sometimes
25 be soap bubbles, but a picture can be worth a thousand words.

0072

1 How to go beyond that, another form of cooperative
2 conservation is something called a regional learning ecology.
3 A regional learning ecology is really a web based network of
4 interested participants because it is web based it's always
5 available. It's just not available to a selective few.

6 It shows how decisions have been reached and I think
7 that's one of the ongoing concerns that people have, but also
8 makes technical resources such as scientific data, technical
9 papers available, allows access to case studies, such as the
10 Smithville Case Study that was shown. It can be available on
11 video, for example, but it also provides opportunities for
12 citizen feedback.

13 It can affect the process itself. I guess that's
14 maybe one of the keys here. It can document the lessons
15 learned, so community design and regional learning ecologies
16 allow for a diversity of participants, allows real dialogue
17 and requires everyone, both partners and the process, to be
18 open to change. Thank you.

19 MR. WITTER: Thank you, sir. Just to be sure.
20 Fifty-one through fifty-five. Fifty-six through sixty.
21 Sixty-one to sixty-five and Sixty-six to seventy. Please,

22 ma'am.

23 MS. My name is Carrie Yonley, Y-O-N-L-E-Y. I'm from
24 Ashland, Missouri. And I'm here representing my own views and
25 also the Cedar Creek Landowners Group.

0073

1 I have a background as an environmental engineer,
2 having worked on significant area and land pollution and
3 control projects during my career, have also been a long-term
4 outdoor enthusiast and nature photographer.

5 I wanted to make comments both from a land
6 conservation end and environmental standpoint. Six years ago
7 I moved back to Missouri and became a Forest Service Neighbor
8 and in the last year I've been quickly thrown into some
9 significant forest service issues and am learning quickly, but
10 quite frankly some of them have been fairly alarming to me
11 and my neighbors.

12 First of all, the proposed sale of the forest
13 service. Secondly, the finalization of the Mark Twain
14 National Forest Management Plan that appeared to have weakened
15 the protectiveness of the land, such as Smith Creek, just
16 north of here, which is the only protected land of the forest
17 service, like this, north of the Missouri River.

18 In essence I've learned that our national efforts to
19 conserve the gorgeous land for the future seem to be weakening
20 and I am concerned that we don't collectively have the vision
21 to conserve the public lands as I thought we did.

22 I believe it will take an education program through
23 partnership with the Government and the real public to resolve
24 this threatening issue. And that we need to weigh the
25 economics versus preservation, that's difficult, but I don't

0074

1 believe it's unachievable.

2 Along the same lines on an environmental topic --
3 and this is from my environmental career dealing with
4 pollution issues. I've come to the conclusion the only way
5 for the U.S. to continue progress as a global leader is
6 through educating and motivating all of a citizens to share in
7 the responsibility and share with the school kids starting at
8 a that age a role in environmental responsibilities and
9 conservation to a level beyond where we are today.

10 I believe this will take engaging the real public,
11 again, and having a progressive education process unfold over
12 the next twenty or thirty years.

13 Finally, a more difficult topic, that is something
14 that I have witnessed. I've been part of the collaboration
15 process in different instances. I believe that it does work.
16 It's a great process, but there's more to do than to make it
17 more productive.

18 One goal I believe is important is to challenge some
19 of the environmental groups to work harder at representing
20 what I call the "real American public". I've seen many
21 projects in working both with and across the table with these
22 groups, where some of the groups with only settle with extreme
23 views and don't see the trust, the knowledge or views of the
24 other participants.

25 Their goals and extraordinary energy and passion for

0075

1 these topic is always commendable, but the ensuing process to
2 resolve the extreme views tends to wear out those involved and
3 it doesn't always leave the process working to feel like it's
4 been a vision and effect. I believe, hence the term,
5 confrontational conservation made earlier.

6 MR. WITTER: Ma'am, I must interrupt you. Forgive
7 me. Folks, I'll remind you longer comments you may place in
8 box in the back, please.

9 MS. YONLEY: Thank you.

10 MR. WITTER: Thank you, ma'am. Thank you very much.
11 That was sixty-six through seventy. Let me take seventy-one
12 through eighty. Thank you. Please, sir.

13 MR. BRYAN: Hi. I'm Gerald Bryan with the Eastern
14 Ozark Forestry Council. I am private landowner based here in
15 Missouri and I'd like to address a few things concerning the
16 forestry issue.

17 First of all, I think we would like to see forestry
18 identified and recognized as a crop by the USDA and like any
19 crop it needs do be managed to sustain production and conserve
20 our national resources.

21 The point that I'll be talking about are those that
22 are being pushed by the sustained -- for sustainable
23 forestry -- we'd like to see an adoption on national policy
24 for sustainable forestry as pushed by the Society of American
25 Foresters and the Association of State Foresters.

0076

1 Some of these are priorities for the EQIP program
2 should be stated at the state level rather than the national
3 level and should prioritized with regard to need and not as to
4 -- from special interest groups.

5 Forest help should be a statewide priority resource
6 issue for allocation of EQIP funds. Sustainable forest
7 management should be part of the Conservation Security
8 Program.

9 The energy title should support economic development
10 of biomass fuels. Either the energy title or the conservation
11 title should support market development of equal system
12 services provided by sustainable force.

13 The Forest Legacy Program we would like to see fully
14 funded. Target forestry is an agriculture practice that has
15 been neglect for too long by the USDA by increasing the number
16 of foresters at the national, state and local level.

17 Provide an allocation for forestry to fund research
18 and demonstration of innovating forest practices and harvest
19 technologies that will enhance forest productivity by
20 protecting and maintaining fragile ecosystems and its
21 function. Thank you.

22 MR. WITTER: Thank you, sir.

23 MR. SCANLAN: Good afternoon. I'm Steve Scanlan
24 (phonetic) from Olathe, Kansas, representing the Army's
25 Regional Environmental Office in Kansas City.

0077

1 We will submit a longer written statement that
2 addresses the five cooperative conversations questions
3 mentioned on the card, but I'd just like to highlight one
4 program here today that maybe of an interest to the panel and
5 others in the room.

6 Recognizing the critical need to cooperate with
7 others in conservation of our natural resources, the Army
8 accordingly established a program to work with local agencies
9 and non-profit organizations to conserve private lands around
10 its installations.

11 The effort is termed the Army Compatible Use Buffer
12 Program or ACUB. It is an innovated approach that has been
13 developed in recent years to insure the continued vitality of
14 the training lands while providing long-term protection for
15 natural resources.

16 As part of the ACUB Program the Army is authorized
17 to enter into cooperative agreements and partnerships with the
18 state and local governments and/or private conservation

19 organizations.

20 A part of the agreement -- as a part of these
21 agreements the parties identify mutual land conservation
22 interests and in the vicinity of Army installations the goal
23 of these acquisitions is to insure that these lands remain
24 undeveloped or in a manner that does not adversely impact on
25 the military testing, training or operation.

0078

1 The Army considers these partnerships a win-win
2 solution that simultaneously achieves conservation and natural
3 resources important to local citizens, avoids incompatible
4 land uses and supports the state development.

5 These cooperative efforts also allow many
6 landowners, such as ranchers and farmers to continue to live
7 and work on their land preserving the important local
8 heritage.

9 The ACUB Program is strictly voluntary, working with
10 willing landowners and willing partners, which have common
11 interests in the land and natural resources -- protecting land
12 and natural resources.

13 The types of land protected through the ACUB Program
14 generally include forest, farms, range and grazing. To date
15 the Army Cooperative Conservation Partnership through the ACUB
16 Program has played an instrumental role in the conservation of
17 more than 54,000 acres of non-federal land in vicinity of
18 sixteen Army installations.

19 These efforts helped in continuing military
20 readiness, as well as natural resource stewardship it
21 collectively supports the same bill. In support of the ACUB
22 Program \$50 million in military funds have been leveraged
23 against \$100 million for non-military entities. Thank you
24 very much.

25 MR. WITTER: Thank you, sir. That was seventy-one

0079

1 through eighty. Last call. Eighty-one through ninety. Thank
2 you. Please.

3 MR. MAHFOOD: Thank you, Mr. Moderator. One of the
4 panel members mentioned that I probably couldn't say my name
5 in two minutes, so I've got two cards here. It might afford
6 some opportunity to saying something.

7 Hi. My name is Steve Mahfood. And I'm representing
8 the Nature Conservancy here in Missouri. Nature Conservancy
9 would like to thank the administration for conducting these

10 listing sessions. I'd certainly like to thank you Under
11 Secretary and Assistant Administrator, Gulliford, for being
12 here.

13 Nature Conservancy is a national non-profit
14 organization dedicated to the conservation and biological
15 diversity. Conservancy has over a million individual members
16 or -- and nineteen hundred corporate associates nationally.
17 We've got 21,000 members here in Missouri. We've protected
18 nearly 15 million acres nationally.

19 The Conservancy's conservation programs are
20 characterized by sound science, strong partnerships of public
21 and private entities. And cooperative partnerships have
22 always been a cornerstone of what the Nature Conservancy's
23 work around the world has done.

24 Successful partnerships, multiple stake holders
25 working together on a large landscaped scale. Well-funded,

0080

1 federal land acquisition and conservation easement programs
2 are vitally important and the use of these tools by the
3 Federal Government willfully exercise their role as a
4 conservation partner.

5 Planned acquisition programs and the use of
6 voluntary conservation easements due the Land and Water
7 Conservation Fund, Forest Legacy Programs have the ability to
8 provide the investments necessary to protect such national
9 treasures as the Missouri and Arkansas Ozarks, Tall Grass
10 Prairie in Iowa and Missouri, but those investments come at a
11 high price and we know that.

12 We applaud the current cooperative conservation
13 programs that provide agencies the opportunity to work in
14 collaboration with the landowner.

15 Nature Conservancy has a wonderful working
16 relationship, NRCS, USGS, Fish and Wildlife Service, our state
17 partners and great working examples.

18 We really strongly feel the administration should
19 continue to expand in the sense for private land conservation
20 and the 2007 Farm Bill. In particular, mentioned by a
21 previous speaker, on forestry programs and expanding existing
22 programs in NRCS to emphasize what's going on in forestry.

23 Finally, the Endangered Species Act must be
24 strengthened to establish effective and efficient cooperative
25 conservation. At some point Congress, the regulatory process

0081

1 has got to foster more private landowner participation. We've
2 got to look at conservation bank eligible lands and, of
3 course, adequate funding of the incentive programs and grant
4 programs available through ESA. Thank you very much.

5 MR. WITTER: Please, sir.

6 MR. HARDECKE: My name is Ron Hardecke. I'm from
7 Wentzville, Missouri and I'm a crop and livestock farmer. I
8 also serve on the Gasconade County Soil and Water District and
9 Missouri Farm Bureau Board of Directors and I'm currently
10 sitting on the Missouri Clean Water Commission.

11 Today I'm speaking on behalf of Missouri Farm
12 Bureau. Missouri Farm Bureau was pleased to participate in
13 the White House Conference on cooperative conservation in St.
14 Louis last August.

15 Protecting private property rights and promoting
16 good resource management are long-standing Farm Bureau policy
17 positions. They reflect four values held by our members. Our
18 message to you today is this: Work with farmers and ranchers
19 and organizations like Farm Bureau to find ways to meet
20 cooperative conservation objectives, which should include
21 keeping working lands in the hands of family farmers and

22 ranchers for food and fiber production.

23 NRCS provides a direct link between landowners and
24 the Federal Government. Here in Missouri state
25 conservationists, Roger Hanson, and his staff do a great job

0082

1 of dealing with our diverse demands and limited resources. As
2 local sources of information and assistance for farmers and
3 ranchers District Conservationists are uniquely qualified to
4 coordinate local landowner involvement and cooperative
5 conservation issues.

6 We urge you to look to state and local NRCS
7 officials for guidance from within the ranks of the Federal
8 Government in developing practical cooperative conservation
9 applications that work for farm and ranch families, who supply
10 Americans with the safest most abundant and most affordable
11 food supply in the world.

12 I want to thank you Jim Gulliford for his outreach
13 to the ag community during his tenure at Region 7 in the EPA
14 in Kansas City. We look forward to working with his -- the
15 new administrator in that position.

16 I am going to be abbreviate from my prepared
17 comments and give you an example of some cooperative
18 conservation efforts Missouri Farm Bureau has been working on
19 in the last few years.

20 Stream bank erosion is a severe problem in at least
21 the southern part of Missouri and we began about four years
22 ago in an effort with the Missouri Department of Conservation.
23 In the last four years we've worked with DNR, NRCS, EPA, Corp
24 of Engineers and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to try to work
25 through the regulatory burden and allow landowners to maintain

0083

1 their stream banks.

2 We've also worked with the Missouri Legislature and
3 our U.S. Senate and congressional delegation, State
4 Representative, Tom Lerner is here. He's going to make
5 comments on that, as well.

6 MR. WITTER: Sir, thank you so much.

7 MR. HARDECKE: Thank you for your patience.

8 MR. WITTER: Please do put longer comments in the
9 box and remember there's a variety of ways available to you to
10 provide comment. Thank you for your patience. Please, sir.

11 MR. LERNER: Thank you. My name is Representative
12 Tom Lerner. I'm the one that Mr. Hardecke talked about. And
13 yes, before I was legislature, which I became two years ago, I
14 was a full-time farmer.

15 I live on a small stream -- rather not a small
16 stream, but I have experienced firsthand the serious problems
17 with stream bank erosion, which we face.

18 And the greatest problem that I've found as a

19 landowner is that to deal with situation you have to deal with
20 so many different agencies: EPA, Fish and Wildlife, DNR,
21 Conservation, all these different programs. It's up to the
22 landowner to pull all these people together.

23 Well, I found when I had the opportunity I got all
24 these people into an office and I sat down and I talked to
25 them and we got together on cooperative conservation.

0084

1 The Conservation Department has worked very well
2 with us. We've worked through all these organizations to come
3 up and try a plan to address the stream bank stabilization
4 program that we've put in place.

5 And to say that's it not possible, we have -- in the
6 last year we have completed four stream banks stabilization
7 projects in cooperation with the Conservation Department, the
8 Conservation Federation, Fish and Wildlife, NRCS have all
9 worked together and we've put these in in the last year.

10 And matter of fact. Three of them are actually an
11 endangered species habitat, which is big thing that we've
12 overcome. We had to work together.

13 What I'm asking is, is if continue to work together
14 in this situation, it is very important that we have somebody
15 that deals with these landowners.

16 The landowners our areas are always working with the
17 NRCS Department. They're doing all their crop reporting and
18 everything. There's a perfect example of where we can work --
19 the NRCS Department can pull all these organizations together
20 so that landowner don't have to do it, that they somebody to
21 go to.

22 Just in a brief note to the USDA Department, we have
23 ongoing right now a mapping program that we are actually
24 mapping some mid-Missouri streams to find out exactly how much
25 land has been eroded off our stream banks in the last ten

0085

1 years and you will be amazed.

2 I think that you will find out this is the largest
3 contributor to soil erosion in this state, if not this nation.
4 It needs to be addressed. It is not cheap. It has some cost
5 share involved with it.

6 I think you will find out when we get this
7 information together, we will have it to prove to you, that
8 this is a serious prop and needs to be addressed and it can be
9 addressed and help the environment, the landowners and we can
10 all work together to accomplish this. Thank you.

11 MR. WITTER: Thank you sir. Numbers eighty-one
12 through ninety that should have been. Ninety-one through one
13 hundred. Please, sir.

14 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you very much. I'd like to
15 thank the administration and the representatives for coming in
16 and being here today.

17 My name is Steve Johnson. I'm with the Missouri
18 River Communities Network in Columbia, Missouri. Our mission
19 is to enhance the stewardship of Missouri River.

20 In 1987 the Missouri Department of conservation did
21 a study that indicated the Missouri River is the most
22 underutilized natural resource in the State of Missouri and I
23 think that's still true.

24 We believe that the best way to address that issue
25 is to get local citizens involved and create forums where all
0086

1 stake holders on Missouri River can get together and talk
2 about the issues and meet each other, instead of discussing
3 these issues on fifteen second sound bites on the evening
4 news.

5 We've worked on a couple of projects that addressed
6 that. The Citizens Based Environmental Protection, a small
7 grant that we received in 1999 to do the management project,
8 which was basically to create a forum where farmers,
9 navigation industry representatives, environmentalists,
10 landowners, levy district members and regular citizens come
11 together and talk about issues about the Missouri River.

12 It was successful and it's still happening in some
13 ways. The Missouri Stream Team Program here in State of
14 Missouri is a wonderful program. There are more than 3,000
15 stream teams. Citizens who've adopted watersheds in their
16 local areas. There's more than 60,000 volunteers working on
17 various stream team projects.

18 Our organization has just created a project to bring
19 AmeriCorp members -- we'll have twelve AmeriCorp members
20 working in five communities to help assist stream team members
21 and those 60,000 voluntaries to do projects and to get
22 involved in their local watersheds.

23 The other project is the Missouri River Heritage
24 Tourism Initiative that was discussed earlier. This is a
25 project getting seventeen communities along the Missouri

0087
1 River, six state agencies and twelve non-profit organizations
2 working together to create a world heritage tourism corridor
3 and basically the concept here is to enhance the stewardship
4 of the natural resource that is the embodiment of the heritage
5 of our area and is the foundation for economic development for
6 communities to create businesses to provide goods and services
7 for people who want to come visit.

8 MR. WITTER: Sir, I'm sorry. I must interrupt this.

9 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

10 MR. WITTER: Thank you, sir.

11 MR. JOHNSON: Appreciate it.

12 MR. WITTER: Much appreciated. Thank you.

13 MS. HEARLTH: Thank you for being here today. My
14 name is Tina Hearlth. I've never spoken to the Federal
15 Commission before. I'm President of a recently formed
16 non-profit organization called Citizens Against Polluted
17 Environment. We're farm families -- family farmers, local
18 folks.

19 I would encourage you to -- before you invoke new
20 regulations, enforce the body of law that currently exists
21 with respect to monopolies -- in all monopolies in
22 agriculture.

23 The liberation of industrial agriculture,
24 specifically to fine animal feeding organizations is probably
25 the single greatest threat to water quality that we face

0088
1 today.

2 On July 12th of this year Governor Blunt here in

3 Missouri signed, I believe, House Bill 1142, which gives an
4 exemption to agriculture for point source contamination from
5 irrigation and storm water run off.

6 We are family farmers and we don't want more
7 regulation on family farmers. Unattended consequence of that
8 piece of legislation is it allows municipalities to -- ours in
9 particular -- spray raw sewage on our grounds harvest hay crop
10 off of it and there's no restriction on that procedure, that's
11 three hundred feet from my house that raw sewage is being
12 sprayed in an overhead irrigation system. It goes right down
13 the creek.

14 And they have exemptions to do that. I would very
15 much encourage the EPA and the USDA to take a look at that
16 piece of legislation and possibly discuss it on this
17 unattended consequence.

18 And the other thing that I would encourage is when
19 you consider farm legislation speak to people who actually
20 file Schedule F with their 1040s. Those are actually the
21 farmers.

22 There are very well-funded agriculture lobby groups
23 and they outspend us. We can't litigate to protect ourselves
24 and we can't compete with the propaganda that goes out in the
25 advertising community.

0089

1 So I would highly encourage anything that you're
2 going to impose, talk to the people that actually file
3 Schedule F with their tax returns. Thank you.

4 MR. WITTER: Thank you, ma'am. Just to review.
5 Eighty-one through ninety? Ninety-one through one hundred?
6 One hundred one through one ten? Now, I'm seeing a pattern.
7 One eleven to one twenty? Anyone else? Last call for
8 comment?

9 Not quite done yet folks. First, if I may as
10 moderator, thank you for your fine adherence to the process
11 and it genuinely pained me whenever I had to interrupt you.
12 You all spoke with passion and it was obvious you had
13 prepared. Thank you for that.

14 What is exciting now is the opportunity to yet again
15 hear from Mr. Tenny and Mr. Gulliford as they offer final
16 comments. If there was no one else -- no one else to comment.

17 Mr. Tenny and Mr. Gulliford will offer final
18 comments and their observations of the afternoon and what
19 they've heard. I would first welcome Mr. Tenny to the podium.
20 Thank you, sir, for being with us. We really appreciate it.

21 MR. TENNY: Clearly the most difficult job here
22 today has been Dan's job and I think we all should give him a
23 round of applause.

24 I think that we owe you a great deal of thanks, as
25 well. When I was a much younger person someone who was very

0090

1 influential in my life told me an old saying and the saying
2 goes like this: "If you lose, salute it. And if you can lift
3 it, move it. If you can't move it, paint it."

4 What I've heard here today is a lot that deserves
5 saluting, particularly the optimism among those of you who are
6 working of your own accord with citizens and local communities
7 to come up solutions, that's really inspiring stuff.

8 What I also hear is that many of you are having to
9 do a lot of lifting when it comes to the Federal Government
10 using your -- or pulling out pain threshes and that's where we
11 can do better.

12 What I hear you saying is that if we will focus our
13 attention to the folks that are our resources. If we focus
14 our priorities on the many who are already doing then we will
15 just be able to do so much more, that's what I hear.

16 And I think that creates a wonderful opportunity for
17 us. I put myself into a position of a forest ranger or the
18 state conversationist or others in the Federal Government, who
19 work with people and citizens day-to-day.

20 Where am I most likely to be dedicating my efforts
21 to work, of course, it would be -- or making my life easier
22 because they're making the work that we're all engaged in
23 easier and better. And I can't help but think that our
24 greatest position here is to make that easier to do, to make
25 it more hospitable.

0091

1 The Chief Forest Service has said on numerous
2 occasions if you want to partner with us, you've got to be
3 able to bargain with us, because sometimes you need to be a
4 part to do that and he said that in jest, but there's always a
5 German truth in the indication of that and I think that's a
6 very powerful message for us to take back.

7 Let's let the conservationists. Let's let the
8 partnerships. Let's let the good work that people are willing
9 to do because they're willing to do it, work, that's very to
10 commend that.

11 And let's make our system a little more integrated,
12 a little more understandable, a little more accessible to the
13 people who are willing to do good things, because they want to
14 do it and I thank you for you that.

15 We are going to listen a little bit more. We have a
16 few more of these sessions to do and we'll be spending time
17 with folks there. We will be continuing these listening
18 sessions throughout the month of September.

19 We're hoping to complete them. We will never be
20 done, but we'll have completed our listening sessions and take
21 the information we learned from you, the very good advice of
22 council we heard from you and we'll be fashioning our federal
23 efforts in a manner that's consistent with what I've heard.

24 In my position I'll be working on closed policies
25 that have do with the management of our national corp system

0092

1 here and the others will be looking at how we can work better
2 with farmers or ranchers. Others are going to be looking at
3 how we can work better with those who are working on our
4 rivers, about our home environments, about a whole variety of
5 places that are important to us and resources that we can --

6 So we thank you for all of your input. We thank you
7 for being here. We thank you for so many of you preserving
8 today and staying throughout the entire session.

9 Please continue in the work you're doing and we will
10 recommend things to try to make it easier. It won't be
11 perfect, but we're going to try. Thank you very much for
12 being here and we hope to hear from the great State of

13 Missouri as it moves forward.

14 MR. GULLIFORD: I want to thank all of you. I've
15 always heard and felt that the governance in this nation is
16 really given to the people that show. The people that come
17 and express their interests, their concerns really do have
18 effect in this country.

19 So we very much appreciate the things we have heard
20 from you today. I want to thank you for your kindness and
21 respect to each other, not only in operating by the rules set
22 forth in the session by Dan, but by the way you treated each
23 other and treated everybody here.

24 You really, obviously, impress me the way you
25 midwesterners do impress a lot of people as being very

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1 passionate, very respectful, very polite, but firm and I think
2 that's characteristics that I value a lot and we did hear your
3 messages today. And we heard a lot on a number of things.

4 One, that you folks are good at Department of
5 Conversion and the way you practice it. You use it to address
6 issues that are very important, but I also heard today that
7 you're asking for our support, sometimes financially,
8 sometimes through how we implement our programs.

9 I think sometimes by just sharing some of the load
10 with you and being receptive to your ideas and needs and I
11 think that those are messages that we take away very, very
12 seriously and we take away from these meetings.

13 And finally, clearly if you listened -- and I thank
14 all for staying, as well -- in the different issues there are
15 differences of opinion and, again, presenting in a respectful
16 and powerful way.

17 We heard particularly -- I guess the one issue is
18 the strongest concern that both sides are the Endangered
19 Species Act and how it's implemented, whether it's modified,
20 whether it's funded. There's a lot of interest in the
21 Endangered Species Act, one that obviously interests us very
22 much, as well.

23 So again, I just want to close by thanking all of
24 you for bringing your ideas, very articulately, everybody
25 here, just by their interest, their passion and their

0094

1 willingness to give us an afternoon, to give us your ideas, we
2 very much appreciate. Thank you all for coming. Please drive
3 safely.

4 Know that we have recorded some of the things that
5 you said today, very interested in them. You'll see the
6 essence of these comments on our websites that deal with
7 issues and please stay engaged in the process and stay engaged
8 in the things you're doing locally for the betterment of not
9 only Missouri, but for the other states that we're
10 representing here.

11 MR. WITTER: Safe travels, as well. Thank you for
12 coming here. Do remember the other form of comment that
13 you're able to make on the web, the letter or box in the back.
14 And thank you for being here safe travels to you. This ends
15 the session. Thank you.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF MISSOURI)
) SS
COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS)

I, Ashley C. High, a Shorthand Reporter and Notary
Public within and for the State of Missouri, do hereby certify
that I was personally present at the proceedings in the
above-entitled cause at the time and place set forth in the
caption sheet thereof; thereafter reduced to typewriting under
my direction.

Ashley C. High
Notary Public within and
for St. Louis County, MO

My commission expires October 20, 2007